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The PROTHONOTARY



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THE MONTH: December

Mike DeSha

Steve McLaughlin of the National Weather Service characterized the month's weather as "an active and stormy December for western New York. The month's first half was consistently cold with plenty of snow...while conditions eased off considerably during the final third of the month as temperatures moderated and precipitation lessened. The average temperature of 29.3° was just a half degree below normal...but this masked a wide swing as 16 of the month's first 18 days were colder than normal...while the final 12 days were on the mild side.

Precipitation was relatively heavy at 4.28 inches (0.48 inch above normal). Much of this fell in the form of snow...which totaled 31.3 inches...some 6 inches more than normal for the month. Three separate general snows affected the area on 1-2nd...12-13th...and 15-16th...the earlier ones dropping around 4 inches...with the one on the 15-16th dropping 8 to 12 inches across the metro area. A mild rain melted the snowpack on the 23rd but some limited lake effect brought 2 to 5 inches early on the 24th...narrowly assuring us a white Christmas for the 7th of the past 8 years. The month ended mild and quiet and dry for New Year's Eve events.

Winds were generally moderate during the month...with the exception of overnight 23-24th when gusts reached 60 mph. Lake Erie fell to 37° at month's end...2 degrees above normal. December was very cloudy...only a meager 17 percent of the possible sunshine was received."

This was a month of spectacular sightings of rare species, particularly as the weather moderated. Species seen at the first of the month that would ordinarily be considered the high-point of a monthly report were eclipsed by finds of even rarer species as the month wore

on. Remarkably the month began with sightings of a Northern Gannet by Jim Pawlicki and Willie D'Anna and ended with many observers having great views of an adult Sabine's Gull, a species rarely seen in December and even more rarely in adult plumage.

As much fun as I might have unfolding the story of the month by the dates of sighting, I will resist and review the highlights in a more traditional taxonomic order. A Ross's Goose was found on December 8 by Robert Epstein, *et. al.* among a multitude of Canada Geese at Chippawa Creek in Ontario and documented by several photographs. This is the second December record for Ross's Goose. The first was a sighting by Morgante at Iroquois NWR in 2003. Sharon reported seeing 325 Tundra Swans on December 24 at Beaver Island State Park and Bill Watson found 900 Bufflehead at Fort Erie on December 19. Watson, Pawlicki and Klick provided verifications of the Eared Grebe spotted at Point Gratiot in Chautauqua County on the 29th and 30th. They distinguished this rare grebe from the nearby Horned Grebes by its thinner and longer-looking neck, as well as its



Common Redpolls photographed by Mike Morgante in Orchard Park, NY on December 23, 2007.

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overall darker and less contrasting appearance. It was also noted that the black cap of the Eared Grebe extended under the eye to form a mask. Eared Grebes are now regularly found during the late summer and fall at Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant, but this lingering bird is more unexpected. There are only eight previous December records of this species.

Pawlicki and D'Anna *et. al.* found the before-mentioned Northern Gannet on the 2nd on Lake Ontario. Pawlicki saw it at Fort Niagara State Park while D'Anna and others spotted presumably the same bird at Four-Mile Creek State Park.

For the last few years, Golden Eagles have been seen almost annually along the Allegheny Reservoir and in Allegany State Park. On the 28th, Jeff Reed found a soaring Golden Eagle in the park at Wolf Run and was able to distinguish it from the

more commonly found Bald Eagles by the slight dihedral of the wings as it soared and the white on the under-tail with a black terminal band.

As marvelous as these sightings are, the big story this month is gulls. The regularly seen Little Gulls, Iceland Gulls, Lesser Black-backed Gulls and Glaucous Gulls spotted this month contribute to the status of the Niagara River as an Important Bird Area. However, Dunkirk Harbor serves also as a significant attractor of gulls and other waterfowl. While birding the harbor on the 23rd of December, David Wheeler of Syracuse found two rare gulls – a first-winter Franklin's Gull and an adult Sabine's Gull. Both gulls stayed for days - long enough to allow many birders the opportunity for good looks at each. As documented by Watson, Klick and Pawlicki who saw the bird later in the month, the Franklin's Gull was easily distinguished from the many Bonaparte's Gulls in the area by its dark gray mantle. It had a gray half-hood, a black bill and a broken eye-ring. The incomplete terminal tail band separated it from a first-winter Laughing Gull. This species is considered a rare to uncommon vagrant, but regular in the

fall in the vicinity of the Great Lakes. *Bull's Birds of New York State*, Emanuel Levine, Ed. 1998.

The Sabine's Gull was an adult in worn breeding plumage. Nearly all recorded visitants of this species have sported immature plumage. Lazarczyk, Watson and Pawlicki provided verification reports from later sightings. As noted by Pawlicki, in flight, upper wing pattern unmistakable with dark gray mantle and upper secondary coverts, black outer primaries and primary coverts and gleaming white tertials, secondaries, nape, neck and underparts. It had a sharply demarcated hood and black bill with a yellow tip. This species is considered a rare vagrant in New York State. *Bull's Birds of New York State*, Emanuel Levine, Ed. 1998.

The only reported Snowy Owl this month was seen on the 10th by the Landaus, Fran Rew and Jerry Lazarczyk. Bohemian Waxwings were scarce, particularly considering the anticipation of larger numbers during an irruption year for other species. Small numbers were reported by Pawlicki, Salembier, Lazarczyk, Yoerg and Henderson.

There were two reports of species that seemingly had no business being in western New York during the month. But it is well known that birds don't read our books and they show up where they will. The Hendersons found a lingering Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Point Gratiot on the 25th. Kinglets have been known to hang around through December, but completely unexpected in December was a Yellow-throated Warbler, a species that has only rarely come this far north during the breeding season, spotted on the 2nd of this month at Four-Mile Creek State Park by Victoria Rothman. She notified others and the bird was identified later as well by Jim Pawlicki and Willie D'Anna among others. Verifications were provided by Rothman, Pawlicki and D'Anna.

Apparently, not to be outdone by the travels of the southerners, a Yellow-headed Blackbird showed up at the Tonawanda WMA and was spotted on the Oak Orchard Christmas Bird Count on the 27th by the Millers and a Dark-eyed Junco of the "Oregon" race arrived at Richard Salembier's backyard on the 15th and 16th.

Both large and small flocks of Snow Buntings were seen throughout the month. D'Anna saw a flock of 350 individuals in the Town of Newfane on the 3rd and Beattie *et al* counted 250 in Bethany on the 22nd. Pine Grosbeaks were scarce throughout our region. Six to ten individuals were seen at Fort Niagara State Park by Salembier early in the month and the only others reported were a flock of 11 spotted on the 27th at Iroquois NWR by Watson and Pawlicki.

Common Redpolls in large numbers irrupted into New York State. Susan and Tom O'Donnell reported a high count of 100 individuals in the Town of Porter with many other reports throughout western New York. Among the numerous redpolls, two Hoary Redpolls were documented; an individual was seen by Willie D'Anna in Wilson on the 9th and another by Brendan Klick on the 29th in Colden.

Origin of Migrant Cormorants

Bill Watson

Late September is an excellent time to view waterfowl migration along the south shore of Lake Ontario. During this time you can usually see good numbers of White-winged Scoters, Surf Scoters, and Red-breasted Mergansers – especially in the early morning hours. On September 28th Jim Pawlicki and I chose Olcott, NY for our watchsite.

Early on, 16 American Golden Plovers were seen flying westward. Jim called ahead to Betsy Potter in Wilson to alert her of these birds and based on the approximate time she also saw this same flock, the estimated speed of the flock was about 42 MPH. Besides this excitement, the morning was otherwise dull with only a few White-winged and Surf Scoters, Red-breasted Mergansers, Bonaparte's Gulls, and a Common Loon, so when Jim noticed a leg-banded cormorant in a westward flying group of cormorants and that they had land nearby, I decided to search for the banded bird.

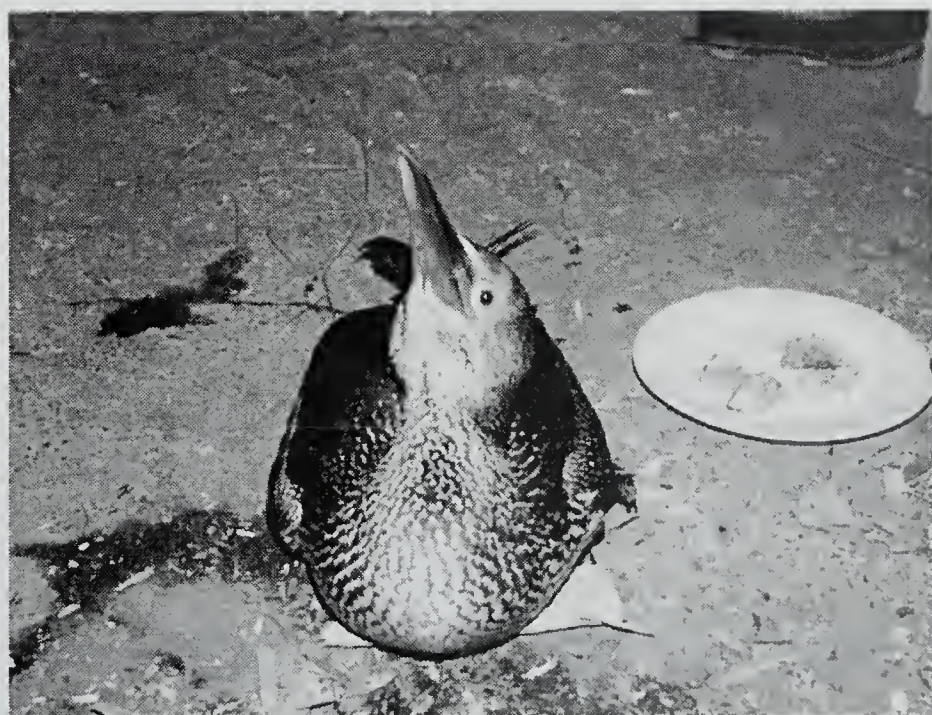
When I arrived at the Olcott pier, I counted ~150 Double-crested Cormorants on and around the pier. With so many cormorants blocking my view I at first thought finding the banded cormorant might be like looking for the proverbial needle in a haystack. Much to my surprise, within about five minutes, I found the banded bird and read the white band code BRR on a red band. (I was informed by the bander that the color band was pink, not red.) While I was counting the rest of the cormorants I was surprised again to find a second red (pink) band CEK, and then BEP, BEL, FAH, 70B, DJA and GNB! All of the banded Double-crested Cormorants had pink leg bands with white letters except 70B, which had black letter-numbers on a white leg band.

Often watching the waterfowl migration moving east or west along Lake Ontario, I have often wondered, Where do these birds come from? and where are they going? Perhaps now I could get some answers. I sent the information to Chip Weseloh who forwarded the information to Andrew Jobes, an avian biologist with the Wildlife Research & Development Section of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Andrew graciously supplied me with the following information: Five of the banded birds (BRR, BEP, BEL, CEK, and DJA) were banded in June 2007 as flightless chicks from one of four colonies in Lake Huron's Georgian Bay near Perry Sound, Ontario. All of these cormorant chicks were banded between June 24 and June 26 and were resighted 94 to 96 days after banding. After they had fledged they traveled 237 to 276 kilometers to Olcott, New York. The other two cormorants (FAH and GNB) were also banded as flightless chicks, but they came from the Thessalon and Spanish areas of the North Channel of Lake Huron. FAH was banded on July 6th and GNB on July 10th as flightless chicks. FAH traveled 471 km to Olcott in 84 days after being banded, while GNB traveled 444 km in 80 days. BOS members that observe cormorants with colored band around the left leg are encouraged to send the banding code and other information to Andrew Jobes at andrew.jobes@ontario.ca or call 705-755-5133.

First Northern Gannet for Allegany County – Belated Record from 1994

Mike Morgante

In late November 2005, Winnie Hettinger responded to a question on the geneseebirds listserve about a sick Snowy Owl. She relayed her experience as a state and federal wildlife rehabilitator at the Songwings Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Belfast, Allegany County. At the end of her posting she mentioned that she's never seen a Northern Gannet in the wild, only in her bathtub. I inquired about her statement and she provided the details of a most unusual and interesting encounter. On December 13, 1994, a juvenile gannet mistook a parking lot for open water and crash landed on Bristol Street in Cuba, New York. After getting a call about the strange bird, it was captured and she held the bird overnight. The bird was banded and released the next morning. Winnie was kind enough to send me two photos that she kept from this interesting experience (see below). There are no previous records of Northern Gannet in the B.O.S. Study Area away from the Great Lakes or Niagara River. Betsy Brooks also confirmed for me that it is the first record for Allegany County. There are only a few other inland records from New York State.



NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Eighth Edition - Revised 2007) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration.

(f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicates nest(s). (yg) Indicates young.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Ross's Goose	8	1	Chippawa (Ont)	Epstein et al
Tundra Swan	19	139	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
"	24	325	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	26	71	Strawberry I.	Watson
Gadwall	19	52	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
Northern Shoveler	9	12	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Northern Pintail	10	1	Sinking Ponds	Zebehazys
Redhead	19	75	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	26	12	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
Ring-necked Duck	1	30	LaSalle Pk, Bflo.	Morgante
"	22; 23	76; 119	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
Surf Scoter	10	2	LaSalle Pk, Bflo.	Watson
"	29	2	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
White-winged Scoter	11	4	LaSalle Pk, Bflo.	Watson, Pawlicki
"	19; 22	14; 2	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson; Yoerg
Black Scoter	1	5	LaSalle Pk, Bflo.	Morgante
"	28	2	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna et al
"	29	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
Long-tailed Duck	19	120	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
Bufflehead	19	900	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
Hooded Merganser	26; 30	52; 47	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
Ruddy Duck	8	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	D'Anna et al
"	9	4	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	19	2	LaSalle Pk, Bflo.	Pawlicki, Watson
"	25	2	Dunkirk Harbor	D'Anna
Red-throated Loon	9	3	Fort Niagara SP	Yoerg, Henderson
Red-necked Grebe	8	3	Fort Erie (Ont)	D'Anna et al
Eared Grebe	<u>29, 30</u>	1	Pt. Gratiot	Pawlicki
"	<u>30</u>	1	Pt. Gratiot	Klick, Watson
Northern Gannet	2	1	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki
"	2	1	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna et al
D.-crested Cormorant	26	185	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
Great Blue Heron	26	14	Strawberry I.	Watson
Turkey Vulture	2	8	Lewiston	D'Anna et al
Bald Eagle	8	1 ad	Alexander	Zebehazys
"	15	2 ad	Vandalia	Baird
"	18	2	Buffalo	J Landau
"	22	2	Navy I.	Watson, Stein
"	23	4 imm	Allegheny Reservoir	Baird
"	25; 30	1 ad; 1	Dunkirk Harbor	D'Anna et al; Klick
"	26	1	Strawberry I.	Watson
Northern Goshawk	<u>28</u>	1 juv	<u>Porter</u>	Pawlicki, Labato
Red-shouldered Hawk	9	1	Allegany SP	Baird

<u>Species</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	28; 30	1	Colden	D' Anna et al; Klick et al
Rough-legged Hawk	8	1	Alexander	Zebehazys
"	25	1	Dunkirk Harbor	D' Anna et al
"	27	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Pawlicki
"	27	1	Yates	T O'Donnell
"	28	2	South Dayton	J&K Landau
"	29	1	Boston	J&K Landau
<u>Golden Eagle</u>	28	1	Allegany SP	Reed
Merlin	20	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	20 - 31	2 - 3	UB south campus	Yoerg
Peregrine Falcon	11; 13	2; 1	LaSalle Pk, Bflo.	Pawlicki, Watson; Yoerg et al
"	19	2	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Pawlicki, Watson
"	22	2	Buckhorn I. SP	Stein, Watson
"	24;25;30	1; 1; 1	Dunkirk Harbor	Smith, Goetz; Yoerg; Klick
American Coot	26	91	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
Purple Sandpiper	8, 15	2, 1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	D' Anna et al
* Franklin's Gull	<u>29-30</u>	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki
"	<u>30</u>	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson, Klick
Little Gull	8	1	Queenston (Ont)	D' Anna et al
"	25	1	Dunkirk Harbor	D' Anna et al
"	29	4 ad	Niagara River	Yoerg
Iceland Gull	8	3	Niagara Falls (Ont)	D' Anna et al
"	8	3	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	D' Anna et al
"	28	7	Porter	Pawlicki, D' Anna et al
"	28	10	Four Mile Creek SP	D' Anna et al
Lesser Black-b. Gull	28	1	Four Mile Creek SP	D' Anna et al
Glaucous Gull	8	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	D' Anna et al
"	20	1	Beaver I. SP	Pawlicki, Lazarczyk, Sharon
"	28	3	Porter	Pawlicki, D' Anna et al
Sabine's Gull	<u>23, 26</u>	1 ad	Dunkirk Harbor	Lazarczyk et al
"	<u>26, 30</u>	1 ad	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson et al
"	<u>29-30</u>	1 ad	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki
* Snowy Owl	10F	1	Buffalo	J&K Landau, Rew, Lazarczyk
Long-eared Owl	28	1	Porter	D' Anna, DiTommaso
Short-eared Owl	26,27,29	1	Dunkirk Airport	Smith
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	2	1	Porter	Pawlicki
"	22, 28	1, 1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Northern Shrike	15	2	Allegany	Baird
"	27	3	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki, Watson
"	27	1	Somerset	T O'Donnell
"	28	1	South Dayton	J&K Landau
"	28	1	Porter	Pawlicki, Labato
"	30	1	Colden	Watson, Pawlicki, Klick
American Crow	28	450	Fredonia	Smith
Common Raven	9	4	Allegany SP	Baird
"	9 - 26	1 - 2	Bethany	Beattie
Horned Lark	9	71	Bethany	Dart, Beattie
Carolina Wren	17, 24	1	Eden (f)	Andrle
"	19	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	28	9	Niagara River (Ont)	Jennings
Winter Wren	22	2	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	28	2	Niagara River (Ont)	Jennings
"	28	1	Four Mile Creek SP	Potter
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	<u>25L</u>	1	Pt. Gratiot	Hendersons

<u>Species</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Eastern Bluebird	22	4	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	29	4	Orchard Park	Morgante
Hermit Thrush	6, 22	1, 1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	28	1	Queenston (Ont)	Jennings
"	28	3	Four Mile Creek SP	Potter
American Robin	28	21	Porter	Pawlicki, Labato
Northern Mockingbird	2	1	South Park, Bflo.	Zebehazys
"	11	1	Tifft NP	Watson, Pawlicki
"	19	2	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
American Pipit	<u>28L</u>	1	Porter	Pawlicki et al
* Bohemian Waxwing	1F	2	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki, Salembier et al
"	7	1	Grand I.	Lazarczyk
"	9	3	Porter	Yoerg, Henderson
"	21	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Yellow-r. Warbler	27	7	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Pawlicki
"	28	1	Queenston (Ont)	Jennings
<u>Yellow-thr. Warbler</u>	2	1	Four Mile Creek SP	Rothman, Pawlicki, D'Anna et al
Savannah Sparrow	<u>4-6L</u>	1	Wilson (f)	D'Anna et al
Swamp Sparrow	22	2	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	27	1	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki, Watson
White-cr. Sparrow	3	1	Wilson (f)	D'Anna et al
"	28	1	Porter	D'Anna et al
Dark-eyed Junco: <u>J. h. oregonus</u>	15, 16	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Lapland Longspur	20	1	Eden	Andrle
Snow Bunting	3	350	Newfane	D'Anna et al
"	8	35	Batavia WWTP	Zebehazys
"	8	50	Alexander	Zebehazys
"	9 – 22	22 - 250	Bethany	Beattie et al
"	15, 20	48, 12	Eden	Andrle
"	27	53	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki, Watson
Red-w. Blackbird	1	1	Fort Niagara SP	Salembier
"	3 – 5	1	Orchard Park (f)	Zebehazys
"	9	1	Porter	Yoerg, Henderson
* <u>Yellow-h. Blackbird</u>	27	1	Tonawanda WMA	Millers
Rusty Blackbird	9	1	Porter	Yoerg, Henderson
Common Grackle	28	2	Porter	Pawlicki, Labato
Brown-head. Cowbird	9,10,16	1, 1, 1	Eden (f)	Andrle
"	11	1	Colden	J Landau
Pine Grosbeak	1, 8	6, 10	Fort Niagara SP	Salembier
"	27	11	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Pawlicki
Red Crossbill	23 – 27	1 fem	Orchard Park (f)	Zebehazys et al
"	28	1	Four Mile Creek SP	Potter
White-w. Crossbill	29	2	Clarence (f)	Stillman
Common Redpoll	1	100	Porter	S&T O'Donnell
"	28	80	Colden	D'Anna et al
"	30	70	Charlotte	Smith
"	2 – 27	1 - 40	Throughout WNY	13 other reports
* <u>Hoary Redpoll</u>	9F	1	Wilson (f)	D'Anna et al
"	29	1	Colden	Klick
Pine Siskin	1	18	Colden	J&K Landau
"	8 – 31	25 max	Orchard Park (f)	Morgante
"	29	40	Colden	Klick
"	1 – 25	1 - 10	Throughout WNY	8 other reports
American Goldfinch	27	51	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki, Watson
"	29	51	Bethany	Beattie

<u>Species</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Addenda (2007):				
Cackling Goose	<u>Oct 5</u>	1	Iroquois NWR	Morgante
<u>Black Vulture</u>	May 8	1	Westfield	DeFrancisco
Merlin	<u>Jun 23,26</u>	1	UB South Campus	Yoerg
Merlin	<u>July 22</u>	1	UB south campus	Yoerg
Ruddy Turnstone	May 31	46	Morgan's Point (Ont)	Salembier
Acadian Flycatcher	July 20	1	Arkwright	Yoerg
Common Raven	July 7	3	Arkwright	Yoerg
Brewster's Warbler	July 1	2	Arkwright	Yoerg
Pine Warbler	July 7	2	Arkwright	Yoerg
Clay-col. Sparrow	July 16	3	Ashford	Yoerg
Clay-col. Sparrow	July 22	6-12	<u>Wilson</u>	Partridge
Vesper Sparrow	July 16	6	Ashford	Yoerg

Addenda (1994):

<u>Northern Gannet</u>	Dec 13	1 juv	Cuba	Hettinger
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Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded this year: 287

Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for this month minus one from November: 004

Total for the year 2007: 291

Statisticians' Note I: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

Statisticians' Note II: We are asking members of the BOS and any other birders who send in reports to the BOS to advise us as soon as they can of any possible errors in regard to records published in the Prothonotary, particularly in the Noteworthy Records so that we can make any necessary changes as soon as appropriate.

ADDENDUM: To Volume 73, No. 11 November, 2007 Issue of the Prothonotary, 72nd B.O.S. October Bird Count, October 14, 2007, Warblers: An additional Pine Warbler was seen in Section 12 raising the species total from 9 to 10 and the total number of individual birds observed for the entire count from 150,480 to 150,481.

**2008 Vaughan Lecture
Buffalo Museum of Science Auditorium
April 23, 7:00 pm
Bold and Brilliant - Color in Birds**

*Dr. Geoff Hill
Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama*

Along with tropical fish, birds display a staggering diversity of colors, from the cryptic brown and grays of nightjars to the brilliant blues, reds and yellows of tanagers. Dr. Hill will explain the pigments and structures that produce this kaleidoscope of coloration and provide a scientific framework for understanding the variation that we see among birds. Why are some birds of the same species drab while others are bright? Why do birds appear more colorful in the spring than in the winter? Why are young birds less colorful than adults? This lecture will answer all of these questions using photographs to bring some of nature's most beautiful creatures to life.

A major thrust of Dr. Hill's research is aimed at understanding the function and evolution of the three types of ornamental coloration of feathers: carotenoid pigmentation, melanin pigmentation, and structural coloration. Current studies are focused on three locally common species of birds - house finches, American goldfinches, and eastern bluebirds. Dr. Hill's many publications include the books *A Red Bird in a Brown Bag* (2002), *Ivorybill Hunters* (2007), and *Bird Coloration* (2006).

The lecture will be preceded by the Bird and Buffet dinner at 5:30 pm. For registration please contact Deidre Dawkins at 716.896.5200 x391

More information on the speaker at: http://www.science-buff.org/vaughan_lectures.php

2008 BOS Research Grants Due April 1st

Application materials and instructions can be downloaded at <http://www.bosbirding.org/grants.htm>

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March – April Calendar

BOS website

<http://www.bosbirding.org/>



Buffalo-Niagara Region
Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

Mar. 1 - May 15: Hamburg Hawkwatch at Lakeside Memorial Park in Hamburg (Camp Rd. between Routes 5 & 20). Stop by between 10 AM and 3 PM (weather permitting) and see what is migrating! Contact Jim Landau for additional info (941-3869 or kjlandau@localnet.com).

Mar. 9: Sunday. Niagara County, New York, Owl Trip. Meet at 1PM near the Steve & Barry's entrance at the Summit Park Mall on Williams Road just south of Niagara Falls Blvd. in the Town of Wheatfield. Leader: Chuck Rosenberg (655-0231, cprosenb@roadrunner.com, cell phone: 622-3278).

Mar. 12: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Tim Baird, Secretary of the New York State Ornithological Association, will present the program "Life with Feathers."

Mar. 26: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Jerry Farrell will discuss "Bird Banding at Lewiston Station: Spring and Fall 2007."

Mar. 30: Sunday. Lake Ontario Plain Field Trip for early spring migrants Leader: Willie D'Anna 751-3637 or dannapotter@roadrunner.com. Meet at 8 a.m. at Tops Market in Wright's Corners. This is on the east side of Route 78 at Route 104, north of Lockport.

Apr. 9: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Students of the Canisius College Computational Ecology Research Team will present talks and posters on their avian research. The students are co-sponsored by Dr. Sara Morris, Professor of Biology, and Dr. David Sheets, Professor of Physics, at Canisius College.

Apr. 13: April Bird Count: All BOS members should participate. Contact Coordinator: Mike Hamilton (881-6709 or mhsr@wzrd.com).

Apr. 23: Vaughn Lecture (see attached announcement)

2008 BOS Grants Due April 1st

Application materials at <http://www.bosbirding.org/grants.htm>

The PROTHONOTARY

Published Monthly by the

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Volume 74, No. 2 February, 2008

THE MONTH: January

Jerry Lazarczyk

January 2008 was a very active and changeable winter month for Western New York. It featured a wide variety of weather across our region but a deep winter was only fleeting. It was more of a March type month with two major and damaging windstorms but no heavy snowfalls. The average temperature of 29.7 °F. was over five degrees above normal making it the third consecutive very mild January. Precipitation and snowfall were on the light side. In fact, the largest snowfall was just three inches.

The month started out white with a few inches of snow and a few cold days but it was followed by a very Spring-like two weeks with temperatures from the 5th-18th averaging some 14 degrees above normal. This included a remarkable run of three record highs in the 60's from the 7th-9th. The ground remained bare from the 6th-15th with a drenching rain on the 11th. We did get a good siege of winter from the 19th-26th with sub-freezing temperatures and nuisance daily snowfalls but heavier lake effects stayed to Lake Erie's south.

The major events of the month were two damaging windstorms on the 9th and 30th. Both saw winds that reached 68 mph and caused power outages to thousands. The event on the 30th also featured a near record surge on Lake Erie which reached 11 feet at the Buffalo harbor and resulted in some flooding along the Buffalo River and Buffalo waterfront. The seiche (bathtub effect) was preceded during the day by earlier runs at the record surge. The U.S. Coast Guard base at the juncture of the Buffalo River and Lake Erie was under water at the moment of the near record surge. The strong winds also combined with brief intense

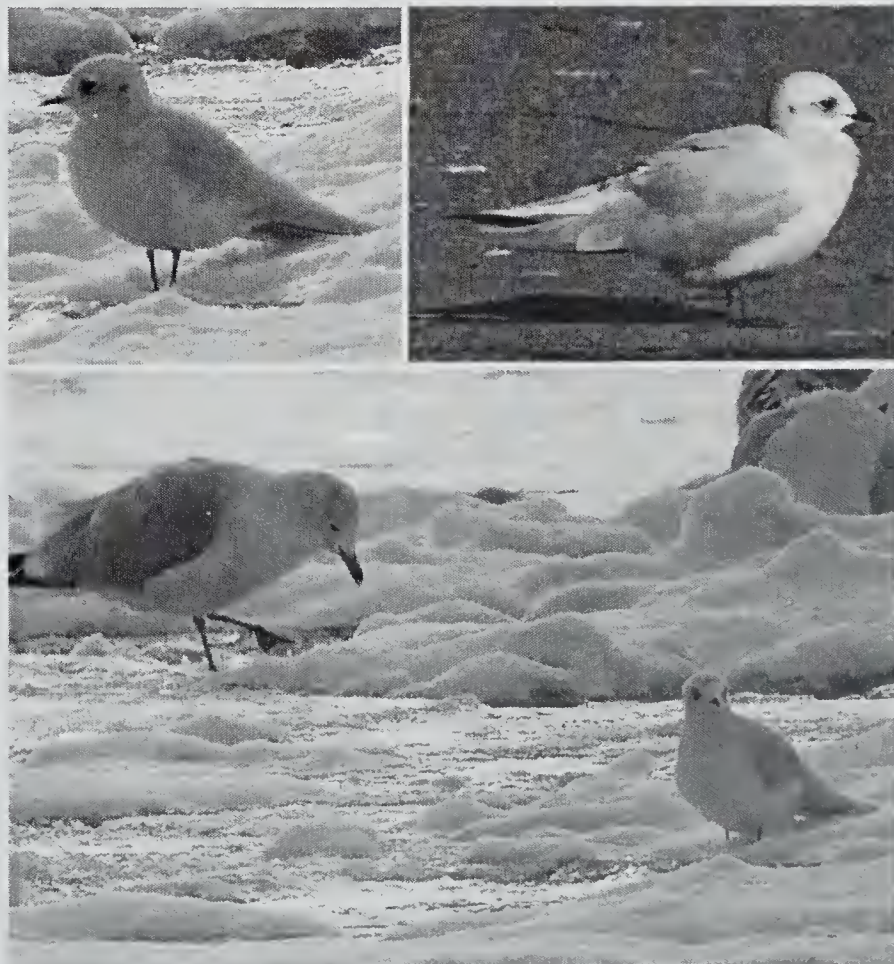
snow squalls to cause local white-out conditions.

Sunshine totaled 37 per cent of the possible during the month, a bit above the normal of 31 per cent. Four

days were mostly sunny while 13 were mostly cloudy. Lake Erie fell to 32 °F on the 25th with ice forming in the harbor and near-shore waters, about ten days later than average.

A surprise for the month was the dearth of sightings that I could use to produce this column. And I am going to lay that problem squarely at the feet of the mild weather that we experienced.

The windstorm of the 30th impacted me personally, offering no electricity for two days and a burst pipe. My neighbor's Ash tree took out the poles at either end of the



Ross's Gull photographed by Willie D'Anna (lower and upper left) at Three Sisters Island on Jan. 27, 2008 on the Niagara River off of Goat Island, Niagara Falls, N.Y. and the same bird (upper right) photographed by Joe Mitchell on Jan. 28 in the Goat Island parking lot.

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street, snapping the pole on my end in 3 different places. Wow!

Certainly the Ross's Gull that Willie D'Anna located near Goat Island on the 27th continues the recent streak of near unbelievable birds in recent Januarys'. Recall the past January highlights – Lark Sparrow, Northern Hawk Owl, and Razorbill. Of course, this continues the recent streak of mild winters as well.

The Ross's Gull is a very exceptional visitor to the BOS region with only twelve documented sightings and none in January. The bird was seen every day until February 1st, a departure from the other Ross's Gulls that were seen only the one day with one exception which was also documented by Willie D'Anna. A Ross's Gull was not even mentioned in the pre-1965 records.

The Franklin's Gull sighting on January 1st and verified by Willie

D'Anna is a carryover of the Franklin's Gull originally spotted from the Central Avenue dock in Dunkirk, NY in a storm by David Wheeler and seen by many avid birders. This rare occurrence has been documented a number of times in the BOS records. In the pre-1965 records, the bird was first seen in 1937, then several more times until 1941 and then was seen every year for the next 20 years. In those years it was seen in September and October more than any other months. Dr. Andrie collected a specimen at Morgan's Point, Ontario, on August 23, 1958.

The Sabine's Gull recorded by Willie D'Anna on January 1st is also a carryover from December. An adult Sabine's Gull in adult plumage is an exceptionally rare sighting in the BOS region. Of 108 records in the BOS database, there are few records of adult Sabine's Gull and there are no January records of this species, as per David Suggs. David recalls an adult in September, 1996 in Countrysides Gravel Ponds in Dayton NY after hurricane remnants passed over the region while Pawlicki indicates two other records of an adult, one accompanying an immature at Dunkirk Harbor, Chautauqua County between December 27-31, 2005 and observed by B. Coulter on December 28

and Yoerg and Henderson on December 31, plus another adult accompanying an immature at Squaw Island, Niagara River on October 9, 1987 observed by D'Anna and Happ.

Beardslee & Mitchell's (pre-1965 records) has an earliest record for the Sabine's Gull (formerly known as Northern Sabine's Gull) of March 1901 over the Upper Falls of the Genesee. It was not until October 3, 1937 that another specimen was seen near the Ontario shore of the Niagara River at Fort Erie. Individuals continued to be seen over the years.

Bohemian Waxwing is a rare visitor to our region. Richard Salembier verified five among a group of Cedar Waxwings and American Robins in Newfane NY. A record of 101 was reported by Willie D'Anna in Somerset Township on Nov. 14, 1993. There are seven other high counts from November, 1993 ranging from 7-65 individuals.

This month's records provided some "hurt" for an old fogie attempting to remain in the last millennium. That Mike Morgante, as one half of the new team of Statisticians, surprised me when he sent all records by email rather than the comfortable paper that the venerable Dr. Robert Andrie sent to me. Thank you Fran and Bob, for a great job over the years.

I want to thank David Suggs for his usual contribution of requested data extracted from the BOS Data base. And I especially want to thank David for responding to a last minute request for additional data. I also want to thank Bill Watson for providing additional resource data and his helpful suggestions.

The pre-1965 records were gleaned from Beardslee, C.S. and Mitchell, H.D., 1965, Birds of the Niagara Frontier, Bulletin of the Buffalo Society of the Natural Sciences (Buffalo Museum of Science) Volume 22. I also used the Seasonal Checklist of the Birds: Niagara Frontier Region, Suggs, David, et al, Buffalo Ornithological Society, Inc.

Wintering Range of the Great Egrets Banded in the Great Lakes Region

By Bill Watson

What if I told you that the evidence shows that 50% of the Great Egrets that breed in the Great Lakes region spent their winters outside of the United States? You would probably think I'm crazy. Don't all these birds winter in the southern United States? Look at the map in your field guide. What if I told you that the evidence shows that 25% of the Great Egrets that breed in the Great Lakes region winter in Europe? Then you would probably know that I was crazy. Yet, amazingly that is exactly what the evidence shows in Chip Weseloh's Canadian Wildlife Service database of Great Egret resightings.

OK, I must admit that of the over 150 resightings of these Great Egrets with red bands around the left leg and aluminum band around their left leg, only four are winter

records, so we are not dealing with a very large number of observations. The four resightings of wintering egrets in chronological order are as follows: (1) An egret that was banded by Chip Weseloh in 2002 on Nottawasaga Island (in Georgian Bay in Lake Huron) was observed in Pinar Del Rio in western Cuba. (2) On January 31, 2004, an egret banded by Chip Weseloh (with some assistance from me) on Motor Island (in the Niagara River) in June 2003 was resighted along the eastern coast of North Carolina at latitude 36.1° N and longitude 76.2° W. (3) On November 18, 2004, an egret that was banded in June 2004 at Nottawasaga Island was studied north of West Palm Beach, Florida, at latitude 28.3° N and longitude 81.1° W. (4) On November 13, 2005 Rami Lindroos of Finland and many other birders while vacationing in the Azores in Vila Franca do Campo spotted a Great Egret of the North American race that “had a colour ring, which they managed to read. Rami told me “The bird had on the left tarsus a red ring with vertical black code 27F (2 in the bottom and F at the top). This was clearly visible, and we could read it several times without chances of mistakes. The bird had also a brownish (maybe some kind of bronze tinge metal ring) on the right tarsus, with horizontal code 1717-33324.” Chip Weseloh states: “We’ve just looked up the details of 27F and aluminum band # 1717-33324. It was banded by us as a flightless young on 27 June 2005 at Nottawasaga Island, Collingwood, Ontario, Canada, on the south shore of Georgian Bay, Lake Huron.”

According to Staffan Rodebrand of Borgholm, Sweden, “Up to today there are 19 records of *Egretta alba* in the Azores. These birds show all dark legs and are supposed to be of the American race *E. egretta* (the European alba do not have all dark (black or bluish-black) legs, and the African *E. melanorhynchos* do not migrate)...This banded *E. alba* was number 8 in the Azores, seen from 2005-11-07 to 2006-01-14.” Despite the multitude of birds and records Rami Lindroos laments: “So far there is no accepted records of North American Great Egrets in Western Palearctic.” Hopefully with this new information, that will change.



Banded Great Egret photographed Nov. 13, 2005 by Rami Lindroos of Finland in the Azores in Vila Franca do Campo River, Portugal.

January 2008 Waterfowl Count Summary

Jim Landau

Overview. The New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA) conducts an annual waterfowl count each January throughout the state’s 10 assigned regions, to assist the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) in monitoring long-term population changes, bird conservation planning and environmental reviews. The Buffalo Ornithological Society has been participating in this effort since 1955, counting in the New York State portion of the BOS study area. This includes the Niagara River and adjacent waters of Lakes Erie and Ontario, and any productive open interior bodies of water. The count period this year was January 12 – 20, 2008, with the target date of Sunday, January 13.

Final results of the state waterfowl count will be published in “The Kingbird” and also posted on the NYSOA website at: www.nybirds.org/ProjWaterfowl.htm

Species Compilation. The table below lists the species observed on this count, their accumulated tallies and trending patterns, if any. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the section numbers are given in parentheses.

Species	Total	Comments
Canada/Cackling Goose	4,930	Variable
Mute Swan	20	Record High for count (A,B)
Tundra Swan	32	Low (E,F)
Gadwall	50	Variable
American Wigeon	15	Low (D,F)
American Black Duck	126	Variable
Mallard	4,443	Variable
Northern Pintail	27	High (N)
Green-winged Teal	1	Occasional (H)
Canvasback	12,655	Variable
Redhead	47	Lowest since 1992
Ring-necked Duck	1	Variable (I)
Greater Scaup	6,060	Variable
Lesser Scaup	295	High
Scaup species	24	
Harlequin Duck	1	Occasional (F)
Surf Scoter	10	Record High for count (H)
White-winged Scoter	178	Above average
Long-tailed Duck	366	Low
Bufflehead	3,368	High
Common Goldeneye	3,750	Average
Hooded Merganser	134	Variable
Common Merganser	1,699	Variable
Red-breasted Merganser	574	Above average
Ruddy Duck	3	Average (G,I)
Red-throated Loon	3	Average (A,D)
Common Loon	7	Record High for count
Pied-billed Grebe	7	Average (E,I,K)
Horned Grebe	25	High
Red-necked Grebe	4	Occasional (A,C)
Double-cr. Cormorant	94	Average
American Coot	118	Variable
Other/Unidentified	26	
TOTAL OF ABOVE	39,093	Above average

Notes. The 2008 count was noteworthy, as was the previous year's count, for its relative lack of snow and ice cover. The benign weather enabled the great majority of observers to get out on the target date of Sunday, the 13th. Mild temperatures and calm wind conditions likely contributed to the surprise appearances of some species and well as "lower than anticipated" numbers for some others. For example, Northern Pintail made a rather strong showing (27, in the Iroquois NWR Complex) and a lone Green-winged Teal was seen on a calm Lake Erie off Woodlawn Beach, the first to be logged on the count since 2004.

Record count highs were noted for Mute Swan (20, all along the Lake Ontario shore) Surf Scoter (10, all along the Lake Erie shore) and Common Loon (7). Bufflehead continued a significantly robust trend, with numbers recorded in the thousands for the sixth consecutive year and Horned Grebe made a strong double digit showing (25).

Lower numbers were recorded for Tundra Swan (32, along the Niagara River), American Wigeon (15), Redhead (47, lowest recorded since 1992) and Long-tailed Duck (366). Although never recorded in large numbers, Wood Duck was nonetheless suspiciously absent for the third year in a row.

Participation in New York's Annual Mid-winter Bald Eagle Survey. The January Waterfowl Count coincides with a National Mid-winter Bald Eagle Survey. The New York State DEC encourages our waterfowl counters to report any Bald Eagle sightings during the waterfowl count. The DEC, in turn, contributes the New York State census to the national Mid-winter Bald Eagle Survey, which is now coordinated nationally by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. You can follow the DEC's winter eagle research on the Internet at www.dec.ny.gov/animals/9381.html

The following 17 eagle sightings were reported:

1/13/08 – 2 adults, Silver Creek, NY

1/13/08 – 2 adults, 1 immature, Iroquois NWR

1/13/08 – 1 immature, Dunkirk, NY

1/13/08 – 1 adult, Olean, NY. 2 immatures, Salamanca, NY. 2 adults, 1 immature, Allegheny Reservoir

1/13/08 – 1 immature, Niagara River, Queenston Heights, ON

1/12 & 1/18/08 – 1 adult, Town of Amity, NY

1/13/08 – 2 adults, Lakewood, NY

1/13/08 – 1 adult, Strawberry Island, Niagara River

Fluctuating winter weather conditions, particularly ice cover on major bodies of water, have much to do with the size of over-wintering eagle populations in our area. However, the overall upward trend for Bald Eagle numbers, along with similar trends for Osprey and Peregrine Falcon populations, has been an unqualified environmental success story. It is striking to consider that Bald Eagle sightings in the B.O.S. study area have become close to commonplace.

Acknowledgements. The compiler wishes to thank the following section leaders (in boldface) and participants for their efforts on behalf of this year's January Waterfowl Count and Mid-winter Bald Eagle Survey:

A. Lake Ontario (Point Breeze to Olcott): **Tom O'Donnell**, Sue O'Donnell

B. Lake Ontario (Olcott to Fort Niagara): Barbara Henderson, **Peter Yoerg**

C. Fort Niagara to Niagara Falls, NY side: **Donna DeLeon**, Robert DeLeon

D. NOTL to Niagara Falls, Canadian side: Doug Happ, **Mike Zebehazy**

E1. Buffalo Harbor to Sheridan Dr., NY side: Joe Thill, **John Thill**

E2. Sheridan Dr. to Goat Island: John Daniels, Mike Galas, David Gordon, **Gerry Rising**

F1. Peace Bridge to Horseshoe Falls: **Bill Broderick**, Ken Cohen, Don Roberson, Vicki Rothman, Dennis Russell

F2. Jaeger Rocks to Peace Bridge, Canadian side: John Daniels, Mike Galas, David Gordon, **Gerry Rising**

G. Grand Island: Donald Brasure, Olive Burch, **William Burch**, Gerald Lazarczyk

H. Lake Erie (Buffalo Harbor to Silver Creek): Robert Andrie, Jim Landau, **Karen Landau**, James Rozanski, **Elizabeth Wells**

I. Lake Erie (Silver Creek to PA line): Audrey Horbett, **Fran Rew**

J. Jamestown & Chautauqua Lake: Paul Doran, Ruth Lundin, **Bill Seleen**, Tom Simmons

K. Allegheny River, Cattaraugus Co. from Olean to Allegheny Reservoir at PA line): **Tim Baird**, Mike DeSha, Steve Eaton, Tom LeBlanc

L. Allegany County: **Doris Burton**, Mary Jordan, Larry Wilson

M. Batavia, NY: **Doug Beattie**, Sharon Beattie, Elaine Dart, **Gail Seamans**

N & O. Iroquois NWR, Oak Orchard & Tonawanda WMAs: **Ed Ratajczak**

P. Amherst, Clarence, Cheektowaga, Lancaster, NY: Mike Morgante, Olive Burch, **William Burch**

Q. Delaware Park, Forest Lawn Cemetery: **Tom Connare**, George Robbins

R. South Park, Cazenovia Park & Creek: Jim Landau, **Karen Landau**

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Eighth Edition - Revised 2007) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration.

(f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicates nest(s). (yg) Indicates young.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

<u>Species</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Mute Swan	10	8	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Sharon
Tundra Swan	21	24	Beaver I. SP	Watson
Gadwall	17	26	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
Northern Pintail	19	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Moshers
"	21	1	Beaver I. SP	Watson, Pawlicki
"	21	1	Goat I.	Watson, Pawlicki
Green-winged Teal	1	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Yoerg, Henderson
Canvasback	21	8000	Beaver I. SP	Watson, Pawlicki
Redhead	21	12	Beaver I. SP	Watson
"	26	200	Fort Erie (Ont)	Pawlicki
Ring-necked Duck	12	45	LaSalle Pk, Bflo	Morgante
"	21	1	Beaver I. SP	Watson, Pawlicki
"	26	42	Fort Erie (Ont)	Pawlicki
Greater Scaup	26	13900	Fort Erie (Ont)	Pawlicki
Lesser Scaup	12	1	LaSalle Pk, Bflo	Morgante
"	21	3	Beaver I. SP	Watson
"	26	700	Fort Erie (Ont)	Pawlicki
Harlequin Duck	17; 27	1 fem	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Pawlicki, Watson; Yoerg
White-winged Scoter	21	14	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki, Watson
Black Scoter	5	1	Sheridan	Smith
Long-tailed Duck	12	10	LaSalle Pk, Bflo	Morgante
"	17	76	Niag.-on-the-Lake (Ont)	Watson
"	20	1	Beaver I. SP	Lazarczyk, Burch
"	21	272	Lewiston	Watson
Bufflehead	26	1280	Fort Erie (Ont)	Pawlicki
Common Goldeneye	26	1400	Fort Erie (Ont)	Pawlicki
Ruddy Duck	4	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Mosher
Red-throated Loon	17	1	Niag.-on-the-Lake (Ont)	Pawlicki, Watson
"	21	1	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki, Watson
Common Loon	6	1	Carlton	D'Anna
"	6	1	Yates	D'Anna
"	17	1	Olcott	Sharon
Pied-billed Grebe	27	1	Niag.-on-the-Lake (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Horned Grebe	6	68	Yates & Carlton	D'Anna
Red-necked Grebe	17	1	Port Dalhousie (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
D.-crested Cormorant	17	5	Port Dalhousie (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	17	1	Niag.-on-the-Lake (Ont)	Watson
Great Blue Heron	15	9	Strawberry I.	Watson
"	15	1	Randolph	Baird, DeSha

<u>Species</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Black-cr. Night-Heron	13	30	Tonawanda I.	Gordon
Bald Eagle	7	2 ad, 3 imm	Allegheny Reservoir	Baird, Eaton
"	28	3	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	1 - 26	1 - 2	BOS Study Area	10 other reports
Northern Harrier	15	1 ad m	Conewango WMA	Baird, DeSha
Rough-legged Hawk	3; 6	1; 2	Iroquois NWR	Watson; D'Anna
"	6	1	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna
"	6	1	Carlton	S&T O'Donnell
"	15	3	South Dayton	Baird, DeSha
Merlin	2 - 31	1 - 2	UB south campus	Yoerg
"	15	1	Leon	Baird, DeSha
Peregrine Falcon	1	1	Dunkirk	Smith
"	17, 28	1, 1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Pawlicki, Watson
"	26	1	Buckhorn I. SP	T O'Donnell
"	28	1	Goat I.	Salembier
American Coot	6	1	Point Breeze	S&T O'Donnell
"	6	15	Buckhorn I. SP	Sharon
"	12	8	LaSalle Park, Bflo.	Morgante
"	17	4	Port Dalhousie (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
Franklin's Gull	<u>1</u>	1	Dunkirk Harbor	D'Anna et al
Little Gull	11	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Lazarczyk
"	15	1	Buffalo	Pawlicki
"	17	1	Queenston (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	21	1	Lewiston	Watson, Pawlicki
"	27	2	Niag.-on-the-Lake (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Black-headed Gull	15, 16	1	Buffalo (Rich Marina)	Pawlicki et al
Bonaparte's Gull	15	1000	Buffalo	Pawlicki, Watson
Iceland Gull	5	15	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	D'Anna et al
"	13	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	17	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	17	8	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	29	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Smith
Lesser Black-b. Gull	17; 21	3 ; 1 ad	Goat I.	Pawlicki, Watson
"	27	3	Niagara Falls	Yoerg, Henderson
Glaucous Gull	5	1	Niagara Falls	D'Anna et al
"	11; 20	1; 1	Dunkirk Harbor	Smith; Lazarczyk et al
"	27	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Great Black-b. Gull	12	70	Dunkirk Harbor	Smith
Sabine's Gull	<u>1</u>	1 ad	Dunkirk Harbor	D'Anna et al
Black-leg. Kittiwake	5	1 imm	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	Potter et al
<u>Ross's Gull</u>	27	1 ad	Goat I.	D'Anna et al
"	28	1 ad	Goat I.	Pawlicki, Watson, Lazarczyk, Salembier
Snowy Owl	13	1	Pt. Breeze	S&T O'Donnell, Yoerg
Long-eared Owl	1	1	Porter	Salembier
Nor. Saw-whet Owl	1	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	5	1	Orchard Park	Morgante
Northern Shrike	3 - 28	1	Throughout WNY	11 reports
American Crow	13	400-500	Fredonia	Smith
Common Raven	13	2	Allegany	Baird
"	15	2	Conewango	Baird, DeSha
"	17	5	Salamanca	Baird
Carolina Wren	1 - 31	1	Eden (f)	Andrle
"	4	1	Williamsville	Christensen
"	7; 12	1; 1	Amherst SP	Salembier; Pawlicki

<u>Species</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	28	2	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	29	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Winter Wren	7	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Eastern Bluebird	1	6	Porter	Salembier
"	1	25	Fredonia	Mosher et al
"	7	5	Allegany SP	Baird et al
"	13	6	Salamanca	Baird et al
American Robin	7	45	Allegany SP	Baird et al
"	17	38	Niag.-on-the-Lake (Ont)	Watson
"	21	25	Newfane	Pawlicki et al
Northern Mockingbird	8	1	Tifft NP	Pawlicki, Salembier
"	27	1	Alexander	M&N Miller
Bohemian Waxwing	5	2	Tonawanda WMA	Salembier et al
"	12	6	Newfane	D'Anna, Potter
"	<u>21</u>	5	Newfane	Salembier, Pawlicki
Cedar Waxwing	1	130	Fredonia	Smith
"	12; 21	300; 424	Newfane	D'Anna, Potter; Watson
Eastern Towhee	20 - 25	1 fem	Eden (f)	Andrle
Swamp Sparrow	6	1	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna
White-cr. Sparrow	21	4	Porter	Watson, Pawlicki
"	24	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
Red-w. Blackbird	3	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
"	3	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	8	3	Tifft NP	Salembier, Pawlicki
Rusty Blackbird	6	15	Newstead	Yoerg, Henderson
"	7	1	Allegany SP	Baird, Eaton, Reed
Pine Grosbeak	1	1	Porter	Salembier
Common Redpoll	12	35	Orchard Park (f)	Morgante
"	26	8	Fredonia (f)	Smith
"	1 - 31	1 - 4	Throughout WNY	7 other reports
Pine Siskin	10	30	Orchard Park (f)	Morgante

Also seen in January: Canada Goose, American Wigeon, American Black Duck, Mallard, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Horned Lark, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, European Starling, American Tree Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded this year: **000**

Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for this month: **106**

Total for the year 2008: **106**

Statisticians' Note I: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision.

Statisticians' Note II: We are asking members of the BOS and any other birders who send in reports to the BOS to advise us as soon as they can of any possible errors in regard to records published in the Prothonotary, particularly in the Noteworthy Records so that we can make any necessary changes as soon as appropriate.

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April – May Calendar

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Buffalo-Niagara Region
Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

2008 BOS Grants Due April 1st

Application materials at <http://www.bos-birding.org/grants.htm>

Mar. 1 - May 15: Hamburg Hawkwatch at Lakeside Memorial Park in Hamburg (off Camp Rd. between Routes 5 & 20). Stop by between 10 AM and 3 PM (weather permitting) and see what is migrating! Contact Jim Landau for additional info (941-3869 or kjlandau@localnet.com).

Mar. 30: Sunday. Lake Ontario Plain Field Trip for early spring migrants. Leader: Willie D'Anna 751-3637 or dannapotter@roadrunner.com. Meet at 8 a.m. at Tops Market in Wright's Corners. This is on the east side of Route 78 at Route 104, north of Lockport.

Apr. 9: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Students of the Canisius College Computational Ecology Research Team will present talks and posters on their avian research. The students are co-sponsored by Dr. Sara Morris, Professor of Biology, and Dr. David Sheets, Professor of Physics, at Canisius College.

Apr. 13: April Bird Count: All BOS members should participate. Contact Coordinator: Mike Hamilton (881-6709 or mhsr@wzrd.com).

Apr. 20: Sunday. Braddock Bay Trip. This annual trip to the Hawk Watch will be led by Bob Spahn (GOS). Meet at 9:30 AM at the Braddock Bay Parking Lot.

Apr. 23: Vaughan Lecture 2008: Buffalo Museum of Science Auditorium at 7:00 pm. Dr. Geoff Hill of Auburn University will present a lecture titled, "Bold and Brilliant - Color in Birds". The lecture will be preceded by the Bird and Buffet dinner at 5:30 pm. For Bird and Buffet registration please contact Deidre Dawkins at 716.896.5200 x391. More information on the speaker at: http://www.sciencebuff.org/vaughan_lectures.php

May 4: Sunday. Chestnut Ridge Park Field Trip for Louisiana Water-thrush and early migrants. Meet at the Casino parking lot at 8:30 AM. Leader Mike Morgante (667-9705 or morgm@roadrunner.com). Be prepared for walking several miles on park roads and trails. See park map and get directions at http://www.erie.gov/parks/chestnut_map.asp

The PROTHONOTARY



Published Monthly by the

BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 74, No. 3 March, 2008

THE MONTH: February

Elizabeth Wells

February began with mild spring-like weather, with requisite rain, but in the end, it reminded us that winter was still very much with us. Lake Erie stayed mostly frozen. Steve McLaughlin of the National Weather Service, described February as "very wet and changeable".

Precipitation for February totaled 4.83 inches, almost doubling the norm of 2.42 inches of rain. About a third of that fell the first week, causing several local creeks to reach flood stage. Storms with mixed precipitation occurred on the 1st and again on the 5th-6th. We had 22.5 inches of snowfall for the month, 4.7 inches above the norm, bringing the seasonal snowfall to 74.7 inches. The heaviest snowfall occurred on the 26th with 4.4 inches falling, the Southtowns had one foot of lake effect snow on the 19th. There were 24 days of light snowfall, nine producing over an inch of accumulation.

There was a near 50 °F range in temperatures, with lows from an Arctic blast on the 10th and 11th of 2°, and highs of 51° on the 5th, 17th and 18th. The mid-month warm-up brought rain and was followed by high winds. Temperatures averaged just under 1° below normal at 25.1°. Sunshine was right on target for February at 38%, with 5 days mostly sunny, 14 mostly cloudy.

This month's highlight was an immature/ first winter Black-legged Kittiwake seen on the Niagara River in Queenston, Ontario by Peter Yoerg on February 15th. The Kittiwake was seen feeding at dusk with a flock of Bonaparte's gulls, during the daily evening fly-by. This is the second sighting by Peter in February, the first being nine years ago, on Feb. 7, 1999, also in Queenston, Ont. A

pelagic bird, New York State sightings are most often found in late fall and winter, off Montauk Point, L.I., and along the Long Island shore.

Beardslee and Mitchell (1965) have the Kittiwake as an occasional very rare winter visitant. They are seen during fall migration, most frequently in November, with some following in December. There have been five previous sightings in February, from a total of 163 (Suggs). Beardslee and Mitchell reported the first record as April 10, 1881, by David Bruce, at Oak Orchard in Orleans County; a specimen was taken in the 1890's at Stony Point, the site of Bethlehem Steel. There were no records, then, until 1939 when there were several sightings. Seven reports of Kittiwakes were seen during the 1950's, including a specimen taken by Dr. Andrie on November 25, 1959 at Bird Island.

More recent February Kittiwake sightings are scattered through-out the area with one immature on February 3-28, 1968, in Dunkirk Harbor by Benham, Burger, and Elderkin. On February 21, 1981 Schaffner had another immature Kittiwake at Iroquois NWR; and Fran Rew found one February 13 and 14, 1982, again in Dunkirk Harbor, also seen by Dr. Andrie on the 14th.

The bird was described as an immature/ first winter bird as Peter was unable to determine the presence of the black collar typical of an immature Kittiwake, although other characteristic field marks were visible. Peter also men-



*Eastern Screech-Owl
photographed by
Richard Sowinski in
Clarence Center, NY
on February 25, 2008.*

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tioned that this is likely the bird Betsy Potter saw 4 weeks prior at Adam Beck Power Stations.

As Jerry Lazarczyk mentioned in January, February 1st was the last time the Ross's Gull was seen, despite numerous searches for it.

Mark Morgante had a relatively uncommon visitor; with an adult male White-winged Crossbill at his feeder in Clarence on February 15. According to the BOS Database (Suggs) February records for this species has dropped significantly, with 11 records in the 70's, five in the 80's and two in the 90's, with the last February sighting in 1998 by Bellerby in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Mike Morgante notes on Gene-seeBirds, they may be wintering in the area, as there were reports of White-winged Crossbills in Clarence in December.

Two Wilson's Snipe were found, February 19, in a farm drainage ditch on NY60 in Charlotte by

Lazarczyk and Watson. Another unusual February bird, with the last sighting reported in 1993.

Waterfowl remained abundant through out the area, highlights include two Snow Geese, one blue morph, found at Dunkirk Harbor on the 22nd and 25th, along with one seen on the 25th off Grand Island. 275 Tundra Swan were reported in Fort Erie, Ontario, on the 24th. A Harlequin Duck was spotted again in Niagara Falls, Ontario and all three Scoter species, Surf, White-winged and Black were noted in Dunkirk Harbor on February 17th. Eight Red-throated loons were observed from Golden Hill SP on the 23rd.

Thanks to Mike Zebehazy for the time and effort he put into writing The Month prior to my taking it over; to Jerry Lazarczyk, Gerry Rising, and Bill Watson for help and advice; to Dave Suggs for providing the BOS Database. Weather information is courtesy of Steve McLaughlin of the National Weather Service.

BOS Niagara County Owl Trip - March 9

Chuck Rosenburg

Finally, this year's owl trip occurred during relatively pleasant weather, with temperatures in the low to mid 30s and a light to moderate breeze. Approximately 40 birders met at the Summit Mall in Wheatfield. A caravan of 18 vehicles traversed rural roads of Niagara and western Orleans County, stopping at several locations known to harbor owls. In total, five species of owls and 35 other bird species were observed.

The first stops on the trip were Niagara Falls Airport and Airbase to scan the broad open fields for Snowy Owl. Unfortunately, the Snowy Owl that was seen there a few weeks earlier was not observed. A migrant Turkey Vulture and a Northern Harrier were recorded. We next visited a Great Horned Owl nest near Niagara County Community College. We were surprised and disheartened to see the incubating adult flush from the nest only to face the wrath of a local murder of crows.

The caravan then proceeded east toward Lockport, stopping occasionally to observe Red-tailed Hawks, Northern Harriers, American Kestrels, a migrant adult Bald Eagle high overhead, Horned Larks, and Snow Buntings. East of Lockport, the entire group gathered to observe a Short-eared Owl roosting in a Blue Spruce next to a farmhouse on Lincoln Extension. We had good looks at the owl through spotting scopes before it eventually took flight across farm fields.

A brief stop at the Route 77 overlook in Tonawanda WMA yielded a dark phase Rough-legged Hawk, four Snow Geese among hundreds of Canada geese, two probable Cackling Geese, six Northern Pintail, and a pair of Ring-necked Duck. The group then hiked east of Salt Works Road in Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge to get excellent views of a Northern Saw-whet Owl roosting in a small Norway Spruce. Although the off-trail area was closed to the public for the season, the refuge manager granted the group permission to enter that part of the refuge.

Efforts to locate a Long-eared Owl that had been seen in Golden Hill State Park a couple weeks earlier were unsuccessful. En route to the park, the group tallied American Robin, Red-winged Blackbird, and Common Grackle. In the village of Barker, the group was treated to excellent views of two Eastern Screech-Owls peering out of nest box entrance holes in a backyard wildlife habitat.

The final stop for the day was Bond Lake County Park where the remnants of the group arrived shortly after dark. Following about five minutes of owl calling using a tape, a male Barred Owl flew into view less than 100 feet away. It then retreated behind large conifers where it was joined by its mate. The pair called persistently, even as we drove out of the park, producing a variety of hoots and cackles. What a rousing conclusion to a great day of birding!

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Eighth Edition - Revised 2007) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration.

(f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicates nest(s). (yg) Indicates young.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

<u>Species</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
* Snow Goose	22F, 25	2, 2	Dunkirk Harbor	Smith
"	25	1	Grand I.	Lazarczyk
Mute Swan	16	1	Olcott	Watson
"	24	2	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson, Salembier et al
Tundra Swan	24	275	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson, D'Anna et al
* Wood Duck	27F	1	Amherst	Pawlicki
Gadwall	2	19	Goat I.	Watson
"	6	2	Tonawanda	Hess
Northern Pintail	14	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Hess
"	17F	2	Amherst SP	Salembier
Canvasback	17	1000	Grand I.	Lazarczyk
"	23	1	Villanova	Watson
Redhead	2, 21	36, 128	Tonawanda	Watson
"	16	1	Olcott	D'Anna et al
"	24	33	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson, Salembier et al
Ring-necked Duck	23	1	Villanova	Watson
"	24	4	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson, D'Anna et al
Lesser Scaup	2	1	Goat I.	Morgante
"	21	5	Tonawanda	Hess
Harlequin Duck	24	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Pawlicki, Salembier et al
* Surf Scoter	17	1 imm	Dunkirk Harbor	Yoerg, Henderson
White-winged Scoter	17	5	Dunkirk Harbor	Yoerg, Henderson
Black Scoter	17; 28	1; 1	Dunkirk Harbor	Yoerg et al; Smith
Long-tailed Duck	16	2171	Fort Niagara SP	Watson, Pawlicki et al
"	23	6	Towpath Park, Bflo.	Salembier
Common Goldeneye	2	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	23	420	Towpath Park, Bflo.	Salembier
Hooded Merganser	19	20	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
Red-br. Merganser	16	450	Somerset	Watson
Red-throated Loon	23	8	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna
D.-crested Cormorant	22	6	Tonawanda	Pawlicki
"	23	117	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
Great Blue Heron	1 - 29	12 - 14	Dunkirk Harbor	Smith
"	2; 22	14; 23	Tonawanda	Watson; Pawlicki
Bald Eagle	2; 13, 14	2; 2,1	Strawberry I.	Watson; Yoerg
"	2, 22	2 ad, 3 ad	Tonawanda	Pawlicki
"	12	1	Queenston (Ont)	O'Donnell, Bearss, Galas
"	14	2	Buffalo ice boom	Yoerg
"	16	4	Iroquois NWR	Salembier

<u>Species</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	16	2	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
"	16, 23	1, 1	Dunkirk Harbor	Smith
"	24	2 ad, n	Allegheny Reservoir	Baird, Reed
Northern Harrier	21	1	Niagara Falls	Yonker
* Red-shouldered Hawk	17, 23	1	Orchard Park	Morgante
Rough-legged Hawk	16	2 light	Yates	Watson, D'Anna et al
"	16; 24	3; 2	Iroquois NWR	Salembier; O'Donnells
"	16	2	Harmony	Berry
"	23	2	Mansfield & Dayton	Watson, Lazarczyk
Merlin	7 - 26	1 - 3	UB south campus	Yoerg
"	21	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Peregrine Falcon	2	2 ad	Tonawanda	Watson, Pawlicki
"	6; 12	1; 1	N. Grand I. bridge	Landon; Yonker
"	24	2	Fort Erie (Ont)	Pawlicki, Watson et al
American Coot	16	1	Olcott	D'Anna et al
"	23	62	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
* Wilson's Snipe	19	2	Charlotte	Lazarczyk, Watson
Little Gull	2	1	Goat I.	Watson, Pawlicki
"	3	1	Whirlpool SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	3; 24	4; 3	Lewiston	Yoerg; D'Anna, Potter
"	12 - 17	1 - 2	Queenston (Ont)	Yoerg, O'Donnell et al
Iceland Gull	2	3	Goat I.	Pawlicki, Morgante et al
"	3	3	Devil's Hole SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	14	18	Porter	Pawlicki
"	15	10	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	Yoerg
"	24	1 imm	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
"	24	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Pawlicki
Lesser Black-b. Gull	2	3	Goat I.	Watson, Morgante et al
Glaucous Gull	2	1	Goat I.	Watson, Pawlicki et al
"	14	5	Porter	Pawlicki
"	15	1	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	Yoerg
"	15	1	Queenston (Ont)	Yoerg
"	16	1	Somerset	Pawlicki et al
"	17	1	Lewiston	S&T O'Donnell
Great Black-b. Gull	2; 19	250; 70	Dunkirk Harbor	Smith; Watson
Black-leg. Kittiwake	15	1 imm	Queenston (Ont)	Yoerg
Snowy Owl	3	1	Porter	Salembier, Gordon et al
* Barred Owl	16	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
* Short-eared Owl	24	8	Hartland	Pawlicki, Poczciwinski
N. Saw-whet Owl	29	1	Getzville	Watkins
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	2	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	11	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	16	1	Bethany	Beattie
Northern Shrike	16	1	Busti	Berry
"	19	1	Grand I.	Lazarczyk
"	23	1	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna
"	23	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	24	1	Hartland	Pawlicki, Poczciwinski
"	24	1	Iroquois NWR	S&T O'Donnell
Common Raven	2 - 16	1 - 2	Bethany	Beattie
"	24	1	Allegany SP	Yoerg, Baird et al
Horned Lark	3 - 24	15 - 33	E. Bethany	Beattie
"	16	112	Somerset	Watson
"	16	44	Busti	Berry

<u>Species</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	19	12	Stockton	Watson, Lazarczyk
"	25	5	Gerry	Smith, Lazarczyk
Carolina Wren	3	1	Porter	Salembier, Gordon et al
"	8	1	Beaver I. SP	Hess
Winter Wren	9	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
Eastern Bluebird	2	2	Alexander	Dart
"	12	12	Joseph Davis SP	O'Donnell, Bearss, Galas
"	17	5	Orchard Park	Morgante
"	25	4	Clarence Center	Sowinski
American Robin	10; 14	535; 250	Porter	D'Anna; Pawlicki
"	15	350	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
Northern Mockingbird	9	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	16	1	Newstead	D'Anna et al
"	23	1	Pomfret	Goetz
Amer. Tree Sparrow	16	65	Yates	Watson, Pawlicki et al
Swamp Sparrow	16	2	Tonawanda WMA	Salembier
White-cr. Sparrow	1 - 29	1	Wilson (f)	D'Anna, Potter
"	11	1	Lancaster (f)	Morgante
"	16	5	Yates	Watson, D'Anna et al
"	16	1	Newfane	Pawlicki
* Lapland Longspur	3	10	Wilson	Pawlicki, Salembier et al
"	10; 14	52; 30	Wilson	D'Anna; Pawlicki
"	16	11	Somerset	Watson, Pawlicki et al
"	16	12	Porter	Pawlicki, Wheeler et al
* Snow Bunting	12	1	Niagara Falls	Yonker
"	15, 28	250, 450	Wilson	D'Anna
"	16	35	Yates	Watson et al
"	16	150	Porter	Watson, Pawlicki et al
"	17, 20	180, 200	E. Bethany	Beattie
"	20	125	Alexander	Beattie
"	23	70	Persia	Watson, Lazarczyk
Red-w. Blackbird	9	10	Tifft NP	Salembier
* Brown-head. Cowbird	26	2	Wilson (f)	Potter
* White-wing. Crossbill	15	1	Clarence (f)	Mark Morgante
Common Redpoll	1 - 29	1 - 20	Fredonia (f)	Smith
"	14	25	Orchard Park (f)	Morgante
"	16	75	Yates	D'Anna et al
"	17	120	Newfane	D'Anna
"	23	14	Ashford (f)	Watson
"	23, 24	22, 4	Bethany	Beattie
Pine Siskin	17	26	Orchard Park (f)	Morgante

Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded this year:	107
Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for this month:	011
<u>Total for the year 2008:</u>	<u>118</u>

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May – June Calendar

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Mar. 1 - May 15: Hamburg Hawkwatch at Lakeside Memorial Park in Hamburg (off Camp Rd. between Routes 5 & 20). Contact Jim Landau for additional info (941-3869 or kjlandau@localnet.com).

May 4: Sunday. Chestnut Ridge Park Field Trip for Louisiana Water-thrush and early migrants. Meet at the Casino parking lot at 8:30 AM. Leader Mike Morgante (667-9705 or morgm@roadrunner.com). Be prepared for walking several miles on park roads and trails. See park map and get directions at http://www.erie.gov/parks/chestnut_map.asp

May 10: Saturday not Sunday. Tifft Nature Preserve and Times Beach. Meet 8AM at the Tifft NP parking lot. Leader: Bill Bogacki (435-4426).

May 14: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Nick Sly of Cornell University will discuss, "Function of the Primary Hooklets in Northern Rough-winged Swallows" and "Phylogeography and Island Speciation in Hispaniolan Palm-Tanagers."

May 18: May Count. Coordinator: Robert DeLeon (626-0325 or rldeleon@yahoo.com) All BOS members should participate.

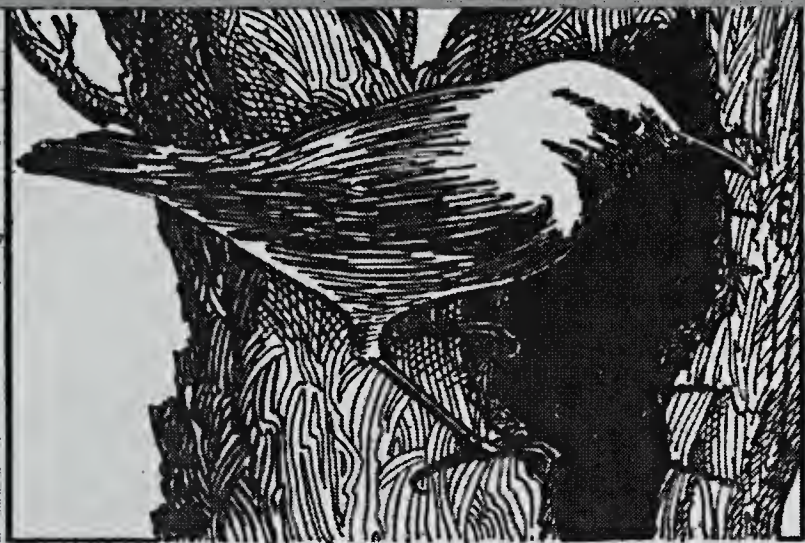
May 25: Sunday. BOS Sanctuary Field Trip. Meet at 9:00 AM at 3040 Love Road Grand Island for this half day trip for spring migrants. Dress appropriately. Leader: Jerry Lazarczyk 716-773-7452 or lazarcg1@netzero.com

May 28: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Bethany Stephan from Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, will talk about "Managing Habitats for Birds at Iroquois NWR"

June 11: Wednesday. The Annual June Picnic will be held at Tifft Nature Preserve, and followed by a short field trip of Tifft Nature Preserve. Bring your own food and we will eat at 6:00 PM near the Visitor Center.

June 13: Friday. Canadian Whip-poor-will Trip and Chinese Dinner. Meet at Vermont and Busti at 6:00 PM. Dinner at Lotus Garden Restaurant (182 West Street - west bank of Welland Canal, Port Colborne, Ontario). Then we will go to Wilson Road, four miles west of town. Reservations appreciated. Leader: Bill Burch (773-3690).

The PROTHONOTARY



Published Monthly by the

BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 74, No. 4 April, 2008

THE MONTH: March

Tim Baird

September and March each bring an equinox, and one can anticipate a change in season. September closes the door on summer, and March thaws winter. Looking back to last September, I was enjoying an extension to summer; this year March reciprocated by extending winter (a condition viewed less favorably by this writer). Well, weather one can't complain about is no fun.

All-in-all, March 2008 was wintry with a significant regional snowfall during the 7th and 8th. The Buffalo International Airport recorded 21.6 inches of snow.

McLaughlin at the National Weather Service noted that this storm was "the greatest general snowfall (non-lake effect) in Buffalo in 24 years". This storm hit the region bordering Lake Erie with a greater snowfall than the interior counties, but the first week of the month brought a mixed bag of snow, sleet, and freezing rain to the Allegheny Plateau capped by the storm on the 7th and 8th that left about a foot of accumulation. Total precipitation at Buffalo for the month hit 4.22 inches (mostly in the form of snow) and was 1.23 inches above normal.

March's average temperature of 31.5° F was 2.8° F below normal for March and 3.5° below last year's March average. No record temperatures occurred for March 2008 in Buffalo, but the maximum of 63° F on the 3rd was separated by only 6 days from the minimum 15° F on the 9th in the wake of the snowstorm. Sunshine was 7% above normal for the month; however cold air predominated as only two days, rather than the usual eight days, breached the 50° F plateau. Cold conditions left Buffalo Harbor frozen and Lake Erie about 40% ice covered at month's end.

ing cold air into the region. Such conditions likely slowed northward raptor migration for the month. Scant reports of activity at the hawk watch in Hamburg as well as other areas indicate little raptor movement. In recent years, March has shown significant flights of Turkey Vultures, but the lack of reports indicates they did not move through in any numbers for March 2008. Bill Watson relates this March was the lowest count for raptors and vultures since March 2005.

March is a month we watch for waterfowl. Looking over the noteworthy records, it is a task to focus attention on specifics among the many species listed. Ice was slow to dissipate from much of our region this March. Conditions might explain the delay of the congregations of large numbers of waterfowl to the latter half of the month. The 8634 Canada Geese at Iroquois NWR on March 15th (Pawlicki, *et. al.*) is an impressive number in both size and precision for this gregarious, and often under reported, species. Another species that peaked at over a thousand was the Red-breasted Merganser with 1024 observed by Neveu at Dunkirk Harbor on March 29th. Reports of Ruddy Ducks



Cackling Goose (right) and Canada Goose (left) photographed by Jim Pawlicki at Dunkirk Harbor on March 13, 2008.

The National Weather Service described March winds as moderate. The general wind patterns for most of March persisted from the northwest funnel-

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were limited to Watson's observation of seven at Dunkirk Harbor on the 13th. One wonders if the reduced sightings of Ruddy Ducks are a consequence of few birder visits to the Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant. The only noted report from Batavia is Yoerg and Henderson's six Northern Shovelers during their visit on the 16th.

Tundra Swan reports were scattered throughout the month. Berry reported an early month total of 150 at Chautauqua Lake on the 8th; the snowstorm a likely cause of their stoppage. Baird and Eaton conservatively estimated a resting/feeding flock of Tundra Swans at the Conewango Swamp WMA near Randolph at 200 on the 22nd, and a week later the Cattaraugus County Bird Club visited the same area to observe only slightly reduced number of swans, and a nice mix of other waterfowl species. A single Eurasian

March arrivals. Four were observed by the Cattaraugus County Bird Club on the 29th, and Tom LeBlanc (personal communication) indicated Osprey arrival at Allegany State Park about a week earlier. A flooded pasture along Ireland Road near Randolph has been a regular spot to observe Wilson's Snipe in significant numbers in late March, and the CCBC field trip observers recorded at least 40 snipe at this location on the 29th.

Owl reports were limited this month. No Great Horned Owl nests were reported. With the end of field work for the New York State Second Breeding Bird Atlas, there may be less birder focus on looking for nesting birds. Potter and D'Anna reported the only Long-eared Owl. Short-eared Owls were sighted more frequently as might be expected for an open country species that can be active in daylight.

Eastern Phoebe were delayed until the end of the month with only two reports from the 29th (Salembier, Dart). Phoebes usually arrive by mid to late March, but the writer's observations in Cattaraugus County failed to note this species for March. Perhaps the generally cold conditions suppressed flying insect activity and delayed phoebe return. Our phoebes had a rough spring last year, and one hopes this year does not repeat their weather woes. Similarly, swallows were not reported until late in the month when Rising found three Tree Swallows at Iroquois NWR on the 27th, and Salembier noted a single Barn Swallow at Tonawanda WMA on the 29th. March's wintry conditions might also explain a lack of Fox Sparrow reports for the month. The Moshers reported 2008's first Fox Sparrow on the 1st and the only March submission (a wintering bird?). However, gates opened on March 31st with a spring-like temperature approaching 60° F and an impressive flight of Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles noted by Watson *et. al.* at the Hamburg Hawkwatch.

Holdovers from winter are expected in March. A first for March in the BOS area were Bohemian Waxwings verified on three dates from northern Niagara County. Niagara and Orleans Counties hosted good numbers of Snow Buntings with a maximum of 200 reported by Yoerg, *et. al.* in Yates on March 2nd. Common Redpolls lived up to their name as they were reported from several locations throughout the month with a maximum of 300 at Hartland on the 2nd (Pawlicki and Rosenburg). A leucistic Common Redpoll seen and photographed on the 13th in Freedom by Patterson had an unusual plumage sporting very pale feathers about the head, back and flanks, but still showed a diluted red 'poll' characteristic for this species. Pawlicki and Watson, writing verification reports for a Hoary Redpoll seen with Common Redpolls at Tom Summerville's feeder on March 21st in Varysburg, noted the pale plumage and undertail coverts with only a single, thin streak of dark. There are few Hoary Redpoll records for Wyoming County. Mike Morgante reported Pine Siskins throughout the month in Orchard Park. An observer near Bradford, PA reported (personal communication) watching Pine Siskins gather fibers for nest material. Western New York birders should keep an eye out for possible nesting of Pine Siskins. White-

Wigeon seen by Rising and Vigykian at Iroquois NWR on March 27th is a nice find. Those of us residing away from the Great Lakes note with envy the reports of Greater White-fronted Geese, Snow Geese, and Cackling Geese.

I have already mentioned little raptor movement this month. However, an immature Golden Eagle verified by Watson and Pawlicki and viewed by others in Yates on the 30th is exciting. The "golden-brown hackles" of the bird were noted by Pawlicki in his verification report. Both Pawlicki and Watson emphasized the field mark of white concentrated at the bases of the outer secondaries and inner primaries, a characteristic of the immature plumage in the Golden Eagle. A Northern Goshawk was seen by D'Anna and Potter in Newfane on the 15th. D'Anna's verification noted several distinguishing characters for an immature goshawk including a long, wedge-shaped tail with jagged bands. The blackish tail bands were highlighted by thin white lines. A pale yellowish eye with a flaring whitish supercilium helped to verify the age and species.

Resident Osprey in the area surrounding the Allegheny Reservoir and Allegany State Park have become regular

winged Crossbills followed a February observation with three March dates at Mark Morgante's feeder in Clarence.

The BOS Noteworthy Records each month are a testament to the fine field work and willingness to report sightings by the birders in western New York. Such efforts are important and greatly appreciated. Everyone is encouraged to contribute their monthly records by the 5th of each subsequent month. I wish to thank Mike Morgante, Gerry Rising and Bill Watson for their review of this article and suggestions for its improvement.



Region 1 Breeding Bird Survey Routes – Volunteers Needed

by Gerry Rising

This is a near-reprint of an article that Gerry Rising wrote for *The Prothonotary*, volume 71, no. 4, and the message is the same – volunteers are needed for three vacant BBS routes in Region 1.

In a 2005 issue of *New York Birders*, Charles Smith wrote about New York State's participation in the North American Breeding Bird Surveys. Sadly, we in Region 1 come up short in his analysis of coverage. As of his report in April of that year, we had three of our thirteen BBS routes not being censused. For a society that has long prided itself on its ornithological studies, I consider this situation both embarrassing and unacceptable.

Those who have done these surveys know that they represent a challenge for you must be at the starting point a half hour before local dawn. But they are also interesting and a great deal of fun. On a day in June convenient to you, you follow a prescribed 25 mile route, stopping every half mile to look and listen for three minutes, recording numbers of all the species identified at your 51 stops. You then tabulate and report your results on appropriate forms to the Inventory and Monitoring Section of the Biological Resources Division of the U.S. Biological Survey. Routes are best covered by two people: one to serve as driver and recorder, the other to do the actual count.

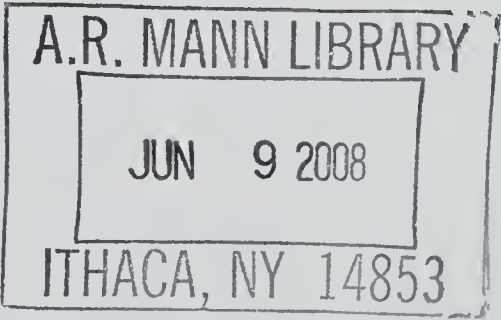
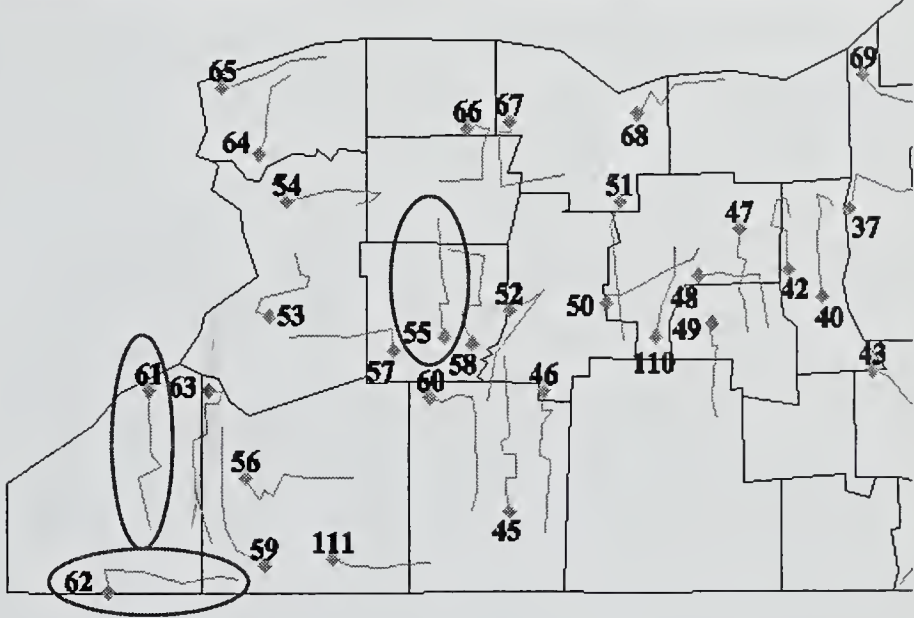
These routes have been censused since 1965 and provide important comparative data about our breeding species of birds. Today over 3000 routes are being surveyed across North America. Much of this data now resides on the web and may be accessed at <www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/>. You can learn more there about the precipitous population declines in our region of species like Blue-winged Teal, Brown Thrasher, European Starling (!), Vesper Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark and House Sparrow as well as corresponding increases for Double-crested Cormorant, Canada Goose, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Eastern Bluebird, Hooded Warbler, Northern Cardinal and House Finch.

Continuing to provide this kind of information is, I believe, very important. As our society's average age is increasing, many older birders no longer have the eyesight and hearing necessary to do the actual identification. We need younger members to step forward, but older members can still serve as drivers and recorders.

The routes not currently being censused are 55 Gainesville, 61 Sheridan (in Chautauqua County south of Dunkirk), and 62 Cherry Hill (near the Pennsylvania border of Chautauqua County). Circled in the figure below.

To take responsibility for a BBS Route and to obtain route data contact Charles Smith, NY Coordinator at Department of Natural Resources, Fernow Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853-3001 (phone: 607-255-3219, email: crs6@cornell.edu). Let's meet this challenge.

Vacant (circled) BBS Routes in Western New York



NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Eighth Edition - Revised 2007) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration.

(f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicates nest(s). (yg) Indicates young.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

<u>Species</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
* Gr. White-fr. Goose	15F	4	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Sharon
"	17; 29	8; 1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter; D'Anna
"	23	1	Yates	Yoerg, Henderson
"	29	1	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki, Salembier et al
"	30	4	Somerset	Watson, D'Anna et al(BOS)
Snow Goose	13	11	Elma	Zebehazys
"	16	3 wh, 8 bl	Oakfield	Yoerg, Henderson
"	21	45	Somerset	Sharon
"	21, 23	5, 4	Wilson	D'Anna
"	22; 23	111; 87	Yates	D'Anna et al; Yoerg et al
"	24	1 bl	Sheridan	Neveu
"	30	19	Alexander	Beattie
"	30	23	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	30	23	Snyder (Ont)	Roy
* Cackling Goose	13F	2	Elma	Zebehazys
"	13F	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Watson, Gula
"	15	8	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki, Ensminger
"	22, 29	2, 3	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki et al
"	23	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	23	2	Yates	Yoerg, Henderson
"	29	4	Newstead	Yoerg, Henderson
Canada Goose	15	8634	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki et al
Mute Swan	18	2	Wilson	Watson, Pawlicki
"	23	2	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Yoerg, Henderson
Tundra Swan	3	43	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter
"	8	150	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
"	9	82	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	18	80	Niagara Falls	Watson, Pawlicki
"	23; 29	200; 125	Conewango	Baird,Eaton;Baird(CCBC)
"	29	36	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	29	160	Wilson	D'Anna
Wood Duck	14, 15	10, 12	Alexander	Beattie
"	15	2	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
Gadwall	2	5	Tonawanda	Watson
"	20	7	Beaver I. SP	Hess
* Eurasian Wigeon	27	1	Iroquois NWR	Rising, Vigykian
American Wigeon	15	4	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna
"	15	9	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
American Black Duck	10	11	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
* Blue-winged Teal	27F	2	Tifft NP	Watson
"	30	1	Alexander	Dart, Beattie

<u>Species</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
* Northern Shoveler	16	6	Batavia WWTP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	31	5	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Northern Pintail	21	52	Sheridan	Neveu
"	22	168	Pomfret	Neveu
"	30	92	Wilson	Watson et al(BOS)
Green-winged Teal	16F	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
"	18	3	Pomfret	Neveu
Canvasback	16	27	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
"	17, 22	10, 11	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	26	4	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Redhead	2, 13	27, 27	Tonawanda	Watson
"	16	6	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
"	22; 29	6; 9	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	25	20	Celeron	Neveu
Ring-necked Duck	15	10	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	19	39	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	24, 31	92, 127	Pomfret	Neveu
Greater Scaup	26, 29	365, 185	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Lesser Scaup	13	57	Tonawanda	Watson, Pawlicki
"	15	20	Youngstown	Landon
"	21	2	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
"	29	3	Batavia	Dart, Beattie
Surf Scoter	2	1	Pt. Breeze	Yoerg, Henderson
"	9	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	12;13; 29	4; 2; 2	Dunkirk Harbor	Moshers; Watson; Neveu
White-winged Scoter	11	53	Somerset	Watson
"	22, 24	60, 17	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Black Scoter	2	1	Pt. Breeze	Yoerg, Henderson
"	24, 29	2, 1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	29	2	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
Long-tailed Duck	16	6	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
"	16	238	Lewiston	Watson
"	31	1	Pomfret	Neveu
Bufflehead	18F	3	Pomfret	Neveu
"	26, 29	42, 136	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Hooded Merganser	6	19	North Tonawanda	Watson
"	15	6	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	22, 29	16, 63	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Common Merganser	4	1	Colden	J Landau
"	16	2	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
"	16	1	Marilla	Holmes
Red-br. Merganser	11	198	Somerset	Watson
"	29	1024	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Ruddy Duck	13	7	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
Red-throated Loon	2	1	Olcott	D'Anna
"	13	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson, Pawlicki, Gula
"	28	1	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
Common Loon	13, 17	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki et al, Neveu
"	28	1	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
Pied-billed Grebe	13;17,18	5; 11, 13	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson; Neveu
Horned Grebe	13;22	49; 68	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson; Neveu
"	15	42	Yates	D'Anna
"	16	7	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
"	30	70	Somerset	Watson, D'Anna et al(BOS)
Red-necked Grebe	2	10	Lakeside Beach SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	2	2	Pt. Breeze	Yoerg, Henderson
"	15	1	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna

<u>Species</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	15	2	Yates	D'Anna
"	18, 22	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	30	25	Somerset	Watson, D'Anna et al(BOS)
D.-crested Cormorant	2	6	Motor I.	Watson
"	13	116	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
"	28F	1	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
Great Blue Heron	2, 20, 27	30, 42, 93	Motor I.	Watson
"	17, 24	15, 15	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
* Great Egret	30F	3	Motor I.	Sharon
Black-cr. Night-Heron	20, 27	1, 4	Motor I.	Watson
* Turkey Vulture	3F	1	Lancaster	Schultz
"	4	1	Williamsville	Salembier
* Osprey	29F	4	Allegheny Reservoir	Baird(CCBC)
"	31	1	Tonawanda	Hess
Bald Eagle	10	2	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson, Gordon
"	13; 17	2; 3	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson, Pawlicki; Neveu
"	15; 27	2 ad; 2	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki, Watson; Rising
"	24	2	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
"	29	2 ad + 2 n	Allegheny Reservoir	Baird(CCBC)
"	29	2 ad, 1 imm	Oak Orchard WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
Northern Harrier	23	1	Eden	Andrle
"	27	1	Iroquois NWR	Rising
* Northern Goshawk	15	1 imm	Newfane	D'Anna, Potter
Red-shouldered Hawk	9	1	Orchard Park	Morgante
"	13	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Pawlicki et al
Rough-legged Hawk	2	1	Busti	Berry
"	16	1 dk, 1 lt	Tonawanda WMA	Watson, Yoerg et al
"	22; 27	7; 3	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki et al; Rising
"	30	3 lt, 1 dk	South Dayton	Neveu
* <u>Golden Eagle</u>	30	1	Yates	Watson, Pawlicki et al(BOS)
Merlin	3 - 29	1 - 2	UB south campus	Yoerg
Peregrine Falcon	2	1	Tonawanda	Watson
"	3	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
* Sandhill Crane	30	4	Somerset & Yates	D'Anna et al(BOS)
* Killdeer	3F	4	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
Wilson's Snipe	29	40	Randolph	Baird(CCBC)
* American Woodcock	19F	3	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter
"	26	1	Almond	Case
Little Gull	18; 20	8; 5	Lewiston	Pawlicki, Watson; Hess
Bonaparte's Gull	29	16	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
Iceland Gull	18-30	1 - 2	Wilson	D'Anna et al
Glaucous Gull	28	1	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
"	30	1	Wilson	Watson, Pawlicki et al(BOS)
Barred Owl	16	2	Bond Lake CP	Watson et al(BOS)
Long-eared Owl	23	1	Four Mile Creek SP	Potter, D'Anna
Short-eared Owl	2	2	Shelby	Yoerg, Henderson
"	11	1	Royalton	Pawlicki; Watson
"	11; 17	1; 4	Hartland	Watson et al; Pawlicki et al
Nor. Saw-whet Owl	16	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Rosenberg (BOS)
"	29	1	W. Alabama	Salembier
* Eastern Phoebe	29F	1	Tonawanda WMA	Salembier
"	29F	1	Alexander	Dart
Northern Shrike	1 - 29	1	Throughout WNY	8 records
Common Raven	7, 15	2, 2	Alfred	Brooks
"	22	1	Salamanca	Baird
Horned Lark	1	41	Busti	Berry
"	11	202	Hartland & Somerset	Watson, Pawlicki

<u>Species</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	29	50	Randolph	Baird(CCBC)
* Tree Swallow	27F; 29	3; 38	Iroquois NWR	Rising ; Salembier
* Barn Swallow	29F	1	Tonawanda WMA	Salembier
Carolina Wren	4, 8	1, 1	Eden	Andrle
"	7	1	Beaver I. SP	Hess
"	24	1	Batavia	Dart, Beattie
"	26	1	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	27	1	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
Eastern Bluebird	3	3	Bethany	Beattie
"	11	3	Somerset	Watson, Pawlicki
"	22, 27	4, 4	Clarence	Sowinski
Northern Mockingbird	2	2	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	3, 13, 17	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson et al
* American Pipit	29F	3	Hamburg Hawkwatch	R&D DeLeon
"	29F, 30	16, 9	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
Bohemian Waxwing	<u>6</u>	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter
"	<u>11</u>	1	Newfane	Watson, Pawlicki
"	<u>27</u>	7	Wilson	Potter
* Fox Sparrow	1F	1	Pomfret	Moshers
White-cr. Sparrow	2	4	Bethany	Dart, Beattie
"	2; 11	2; 1	Newfane	Yoerg et al; Pawlicki et al
"	12	1	Lancaster (f)	Morgante
Lapland Longspur	2; 11	20; 10	Yates	Yoerg et al; Watson et al
Snow Bunting	2; 11	200; 121	Yates	Yoerg et al; Watson et al
"	2, 10	140, 180	Bethany	Dart, Beattie
"	11	271	Somerset & Hartland	Watson, Pawlicki
"	15	75	Somerset	D'Anna, Potter
"	30	20	Lockport	D'Anna et al(BOS)
Red-w. Blackbird	3, 31	29, 1110	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
"	4	15	Bethany	Beattie
* Eastern Meadowlark	4F	1	Eden	Andrle
"	22	3	Wendt Beach CP	Andrle
"	22	1	Somerset	D'Anna, Potter
Rusty Blackbird	29F	25	Conewango	Baird(CCBC)
* Common Grackle	3F, 31	4, 4526	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson, Kempf
"	4	3	Williamsville	Salembier
"	4	1	Bethany	Beattie
Brown-head. Cowbird	1	2	Tonawanda	Watson
"	11	1	Williamsville	Salembier
White-w. Crossbill	11,20,24	2	Clarence (f)	Mark Morgante
Common Redpoll	1, 8	30, 50	Orchard Park (f)	Morgante
"	2	300	Hartland	Pawlicki, Rosenberg
"	13	1 leucistic	Freedom	Patterson
"	3 - 31	1 - 20	Throughout WNY	9 other records
* Hoary Redpoll	21	1	Varysburg (f)	Watson, Pawlicki
Pine Siskin	1 - 31	15 max	Orchard Park (f)	Morgante

Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded this year:	118
Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for this month:	021
<u>Total for the year 2008:</u>	<u>139</u>

Statisticians' Note I: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision.

Statisticians' Note II: We are asking members of the BOS and any other birders who send in reports to the BOS to advise us as soon as they can of any possible errors in regard to records published in the Prothonotary, particularly in the Noteworthy Records so that we can make any necessary changes as soon as appropriate.

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June – July Calendar

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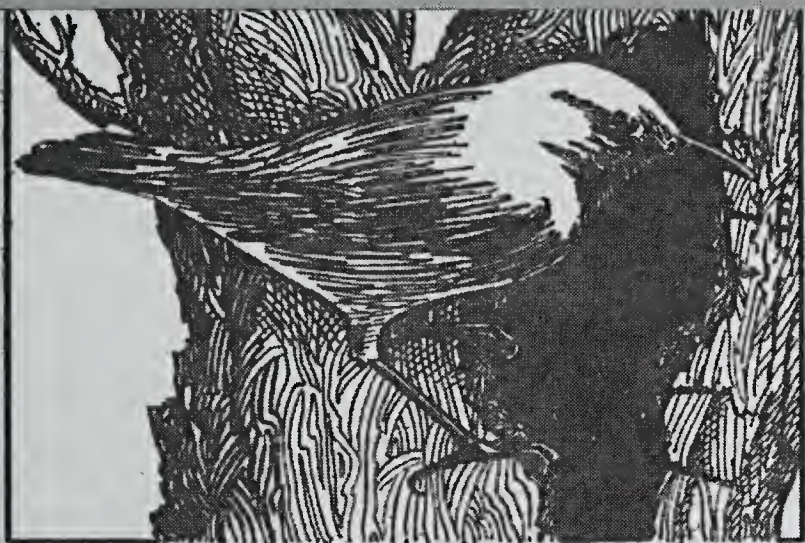
Buffalo-Niagara Region
Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

June 11: Wednesday. The Annual June Picnic will be held at Tifft Nature Preserve, and followed by a short field trip of Tifft Nature Preserve. Bring your own food and we will eat at 6:00 PM near the Visitor Center.

June 13: Friday. Canadian Whip-poor-will Trip and Chinese Dinner. Meet at Vermont and Busti at 6:00 PM. Dinner at Lotus Garden Restaurant (182 West Street - west bank of Welland Canal, Port Colborne, Ontario). Then we will go to Wilson Road, four miles west of town. Reservations appreciated. Leader: Bill Burch (773-3690).

July 27: Sunday. Canadian shoreline of Lake Erie for shorebirds. Leader Mike Hamilton (912-6871). Meet at 7:00 AM at Vermont and Busti near the Peace Bridge. We will car pool from there. Among other places, we will be going to Rock Point Provincial Park, which charges \$11.00 Canadian per car for entry, so bring Canadian money if you have it. Make sure you have current or expired passport (or bring your birth certificate and photo ID).

The PROTHONOTARY



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THE MONTH: April

Bill Watson

The Weather: This April was the hottest in 53 years with an average temperature of 50.9 °F (5.6 °F above normal). It was the third warmest April in the 138 year weather history of Buffalo with 1921 averaging 51.3 °F and 1955 only a tenth of a degree warmer at 51.0 °F. From the 17th to the 26th it was 14 degrees warmer than normal. On the 19th Buffalo was the hottest spot east of the Mississippi with a temperature of 87 degrees! However, the last four days of the month did not bode well for early migrants, when temperatures dropped to eight degrees below normal.

It was the sunniest April ever! We received 76% of the possible sunshine and only four days were mostly cloudy. Total precipitation was 2.05 inches (0.99 inches less than normal). This is the first time in ten years there was no measurable snowfall in April.

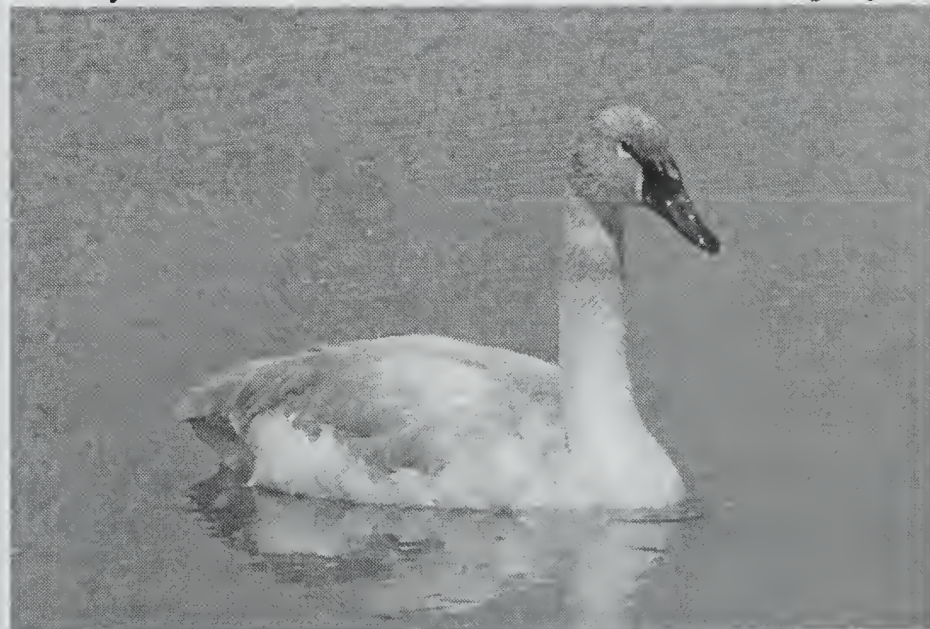
This April's 18 species of warblers is spectacular, the highest number in April Noteworthy Records since records were first published in 1935. This unusually high number of warbler species may be the result of the extremely warm weather (and the associated southerly winds) unusually clear skies and excellent fieldwork by several of our members. Recently we have come to expect about 10 warbler species in this month, with Louisiana Waterthrush, Yellow-rumped, Pine, Black-throated Green, and possibly Black-and-white Warblers being near certainties; however, the Blue-winged Warbler on the 26th, the Magnolia Warbler on the 27th, and the Yellow-throated Warbler on the 23rd and 24th are extraordinary early records.

Early arrivals: This April was 8.4 °F warmer than last year, and this warmer weather was likely a factor in tripling the number of unusually early arrivals.

Last year there were three early arrival species requiring verification reports. This year there were nine!

Previously Eared Grebes have only occurred six times during this month, and at least five of these historical sighting were only of single birds. So the five "full breeding plumage" Eared Grebes documented by Mike Hamilton on the count in section #7 at Moulton Bay, just west of Lowbanks, Ontario, is unparalleled for this time of year. On the 28th Willie D'Anna recovered a dead Eared Grebe at 300 Ohio Street, Buffalo, N. Y. He took photographs of the specimen and emailed them to prominent authorities (Angus Wilson, Shai Mitra, Kevin McGowan, Kevin McLaughlin, and Tom Burke) who all agreed with the identification. Willie then listed these authorities in his verification report as "Observers...who independently identified it as this species". This procedure (also used by Kayo Roy this month for a Trumpeter Swan sighting) raises bird identification and documentation to a new standard.

There were three shorebirds that arrived exceptionally early this spring. Kate Shulgina spotted a Black-bellied Plover at Cayuga Pool, Iroquois NWR, on the 19th. The only earlier spring record of a Black-bellied Plover was one seen by Paul Benham and Blake Reeves in the company of



Trumpeter Swan photographed by Kayo Roy at Lake Gibson in Thorold, Ontario on April 13, 2008.

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several Ring-billed Gulls in a wet field near Lake Ontario in the Town of Yates during the April 14, 1996, Bird Count. Another flyby early shorebird was the Solitary Sandpiper observed on the 19th by Willie D'Anna and Betsy Potter at Ransomville Road in Porter. He points out that in Solitary Sandpiper flyovers: "The dark underwing contrasting with white sides and belly is a distinctive field mark, which on its own, eliminates almost all of the other shorebirds." On the 6th Peter Yoerg spied a very early Dunlin feeding with 13 Greater Yellowlegs at Kumph Marsh at Iroquois NWR.

Two tern species also arrived earlier than usual. Jim Pawlicki and Bob Ensminger studied two Common Terns on the 6th at Rich's Marine in Buffalo. On the 13th Willie D'Anna found a Forster's Tern flying over the lower Niagara River in Lewiston.

Spring warblers also arrived early. The Blue-winged Warbler documented by Richard Salembier at Tifft Nature Preserve on the 26th is the second earliest for this species, only the April 7, 1947, record by the Matlocks in West Falls is earlier. Following its call Douglas Beattie eyed a Magnolia Warbler on the 27th near Old Creek Road in Alexander. This is our earliest ever spring arrival of this species.

Late departures: There were no late departures requiring verification reports this month.

Rare Birds: While returning home from his territory after the BOS April Count Kayo Roy spotted a curious slightly smaller and shorter necked swan with a large black bill among three Mute Swans on Lake Gibson in Thorold, Ontario. He studied it and took a photograph and then returned the next day to study it more thoroughly and take many more photographs. Like Willie D'Anna did with the Eared Grebe specimen, after researching the literature, he emailed his photos to various swan experts and obtained their opinions. The unanimous results confirmed his assumption of an immature Trumpeter Swan. The only other accepted record of an April (and also immature)

Trumpeter Swan was found on the 2002 BOS April Count at Six Mile Creek Marsh in the Town of Porter by Willie D'Anna.

Lynne Landon and Terry Yonker found an April Count Common Eider at Jordan Harbor in section #1. The only other Common Eiders seen for this month were two seen on April 14, 1966, at Hamburg Town Park by Danner and Schafer. Before 1966 our Common Eider Records were restricted to the months of September, October, and November.

This was the best April at the Hamburg Hawk Watch since 2005 with 7,570 raptors and vultures. The rarest of the 7,570 was a Golden Eagle observed on the 27th by Douglas Happ and Mike Zebehazy. Rare raptors were not limited to the Hamburg Hawk Watch. On the 26th Peter Yoerg had another Golden Eagle from Wilson Road in Carlton. Saving the best for last, on the 22nd at Amherst State Park Richard Salembier had a Black Vulture soaring overhead. The only other three records for this month were in 1984, 2004, and 2006. We now expect Golden Eagles every April. Should we soon expect to see Black Vultures every April?

On the 23rd Mike Morgante documented an American Golden-Plover on the western break wall at Barcelona Harbor. Although American Golden-Plover is regarded a "fairly common" early fall migrant, it is at best a "very rare" spring migrant (Suggs et al 2002). Since 1963 there have only been seven April records of this species. In *Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region* we find in 1884 "Langille had reported this species as a spring migrant '...during the latter half of April or early May...' in eastern North America, but there were no spring records in our area until April 13, 1941, when two were observed on Grand Island; yet, in 1954 there were 619 reported American Golden-Plovers between April 18 and May 6 in what was then the BOS study area.

Jim Pawlicki and Richard Salembier were exploring Amherst State Park on the 23rd for early migrants when Jim heard the "evenly spaced descending whistled clear notes...see-it, see-it, see-it, see-it, see-it, see-it, see-it." They followed the sound and finally found the very early migrant YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER after approximately ten minutes of searching in the pines about 30 yards north of the fitness center. At least one observer observed white lores indicating that this bird probably belonged to the interior race of *Dendroica dominica albiflora*. Oddly, this is not our earliest ever record of the species. The only earlier record was April 14, 1996, when Ed Ratajczak found one at Tifft Nature Preserve.

Beardslee, C. S. and Mitchell H. 1965. *Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region*. Bulletin of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, vol. 22.

DiTommaso, D. D. Suggs et al. BOS Noteworthy Database 1964-2005.

Langille, J. H. 1884. Our birds in their haunts: a popular treatise on the birds of eastern North America. S. E. Cassino & Co., New York, New York. 630p.

McLaughlin, S. National Weather Service, Buffalo, New York.

Suggs, David et. al. 2002. *Seasonal Checklist of the Birds - The Niagara Frontier Region*. Buffalo Ornithological Society, Inc.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Eighth Edition - Revised 2007) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

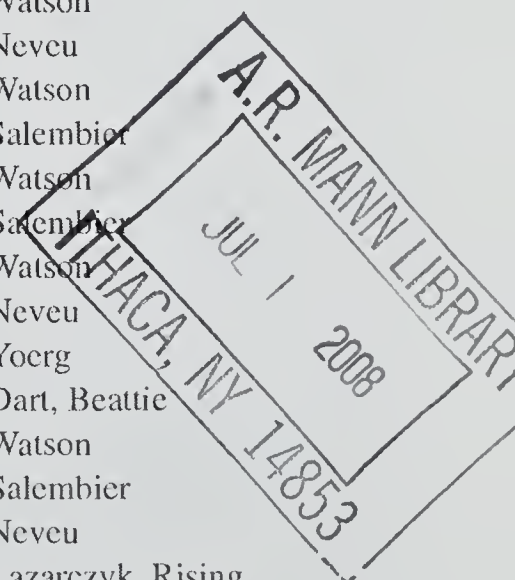
L - Indicates last record for the migration.

(f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicates nest(s). (yg) Indicates young.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Snow Goose	6L	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Salembier
"	6L	1 blue	Oak Orchard WMA	Yoerg
Cackling Goose	6L	4	Oak Orchard WMA	Yoerg
Mute Swan	27	2	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
<u>Trumpeter Swan</u>	14	1	Thorold, Ont.	Roy
Tundra Swan	6	12	Oak Orchard WMA	Yoerg
"	10	5	Pomfret	Smith
Northern Pintail	5	870	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki, Watson et al
Green-winged Teal	5	22	Sheridan	Neveu
Canvasback	1	3	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	2	411	Grand I.	Lazarczyk
Redhead	1, 27	4, 2	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Ring-necked Duck	5	72	Pomfret	Neveu
"	5	96	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
White-winged Scoter	6	3	Dunkirk Harbor	Salembier
"	27	2	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Black Scoter	6	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Salembier
Long-tailed Duck	5	1	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	6	3	Dayton	Neveu
"	6	3	Oak Orchard WMA	Yoerg
"	14	1	Bethany	Dart, Beattie
Ruddy Duck	5, 27	18, 77	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	6	8	Dunkirk Harbor	Salembier
"	6	2	Dayton	Neveu
"	15	1	Cuba Lake	Lazarczyk, Rising
"	27	21	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Horned Grebe	6	24	Dunkirk Harbor	Salembier
"	15	6	Cuba Lake	Lazarczyk, Rising
Red-necked Grebe	9	14	Barker	Roberson
"	10	1	Niag.-on-the-Lake (Ont)	Yoerg
Eared Grebe	<u>28</u>	1 (dead)	Buffalo	D'Anna
D.-crested Cormorant	22	123	Motor I.	Watson
"	26	282+119n	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
Great Blue Heron	8	82 + 64 n	Motor I.	Watson
Great Egret	7, 22	9, 65+26n	Motor I.	Watson
"	19	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	19	2	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter, D'Anna
Green Heron	21	1	Tifft NP	Neveu
"	22	1	Batavia WWTP	Zebehazys



<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Black-cr. Night-Heron	2	24	Strawberry I.	Watson
"	2, 8	8, 52	Motor I.	Watson
"	10	163	Goat I.	Yoerg
* <u>Black Vulture</u>	22	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Turkey Vulture	7	381	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
Osprey	1, 27	1+n, 2+2n	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	12; 26	2; 1 + n	Buckhorn I. SP	Lazarczyk; Watson
"	23	2	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
Bald Eagle	6	2 + n	Oak Orchard WMA	Yoerg
"	8, 26	1 + n	Navy I. (Ont)	Watson
"	9	1	Cuba Lake	Lazarczyk
"	26	1	Hamburg	Andrle
"	26	2ad, 1yg	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki et al
Broad-winged Hawk	17, 18	2, 3	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	17	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	19	838	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
Rough-legged Hawk	2	1	South Dayton	Neveu
"	26	1	Yates	D'Anna
"	26, 27	4, 1	Carlton	Yoerg, Henderson
<u>Golden Eagle</u>	26	1 subadult	Carlton	Yoerg et al
"	27	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Happ et al
Merlin	3F	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Rew, Watson et al
"	5	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Peregrine Falcon	10	2	Niagara Falls	Yoerg
"	20	1 + n	Buffalo	Yoerg
"	27	1	Ripley	D'Anna
"	29	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
Virginia Rail	14	1	Four Mile Creek SP	Landon
"	15	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Lazarczyk et al
Sora	30	1	Tifft NP	Watson, Baird
Common Moorhen	23	2	Oak Orchard WMA	Yoerg
Sandhill Crane	15	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter
"	26	2	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	26	2	Somerset	D'Anna
"	27	4	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Zebehazys, Happ
* Black-bellied Plover	<u>19F</u>	1	Iroquois NWR	Shulgina
* Amer. Golden-Plover	<u>23</u>	1	Barcelona Harbor	Morgante
* Greater Yellowlegs	3F; 6	8; 13	Iroquois NWR	Sharon; Yoerg
"	5; 15	10; 39	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Beattie
* Lesser Yellowlegs	3F; 5	2; 1	Iroquois NWR	Sharon; Watson
* Solitary Sandpiper	<u>19F</u>	1	Porter	D'Anna et al
"	26	3	Yates	D'Anna
Spotted Sandpiper	19	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	20	1	Oak Orchard WMA	S&T O'Donnell
Upland Sandpiper	20	2	Tillman WMA	Salembier
Pectoral Sandpiper	20F; 23	3; 8	Iroquois NWR	Salembier; Yoerg
* Purple Sandpiper	10	3	Goat I.	Yoerg
* Dunlin	<u>6F</u> ; 23; 27	1, 4; 28	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg; Watson
Wilson's Snipe	1; 8	1; 4	Alexander	Beattie; Lazarczyk et al
"	5; 6	1; 1	Iroquois NWR	Salembier; Yoerg
"	12	16	Villanova	Neveu
"	12, 17	2, 4	Joseph Davis SP	Landon
Little Gull	10	3 ad, 1 yg	Queenston (Ont)	Yoerg
"	10	4	Niag.-on-the-Lake (Ont)	Yoerg

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Bonaparte's Gull	9, 15	20, 20	Cuba Lake	Lazarczyk, Rising
Iceland Gull	23	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	28	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	29	1	Olcott	Pawlicki
Glaucous Gull	16	1	Silver Creek mouth	Neveu
"	27	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
* Caspian Tern	9F	1	Cattaraugus Creek	Neveu
"	11	1	Buffalo Harbor	Andrle
"	19; 23	75; 72	Barcelona Harbor	Smith; Neveu
"	29	80	Olcott	Pawlicki
* Common Tern	6F; 30	2; 300	Buffalo	Pawlicki et al; Watson
"	12	2	Tifft NP	Salembier
* Black Tern	26F	1	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki et al
Long-eared Owl	3	2	Four Mile Creek SP	Potter
Short-eared Owl	6; 20L	1; 1	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg; S&T O'Donnell
* Chimney Swift	23F	4	Forest Lawn Cem.	Hess
"	27	5	Eden	Andrle
* Ruby-t. Hummingbird	29F	1	Eden (f)	Andrle
Red-headed Wdpr.	26	1	Pt. Gratiot	Neveu
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	4F	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	7; 8	14; 9	Tifft NP	Salembier; Watson
* Least Flycatcher	30F	1	Tifft NP	Baird, Watson
Empidonax species	25	1	Pt. Gratiot	Neveu
* Gr. Cr. Flycatcher	26F	1	Tifft NP	Sharon, Salembier et al
"	26F	1	Ripley	D'Anna
"	26F	1	Golden Hill SP	Yoerg, Henderson
* Eastern Kingbird	29F	1	Alexander	Zebehazys
Northern Shrike	7	1	Attica	Beattie et al
* White-eyed Vireo	26F	1	Sheridan	Neveu
* Blue-headed Vireo	17F	1	Pt. Gratiot	Smith
"	21	2	Allegany SP	Baird
* Warbling Vireo	26F	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	27	1	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
Common Raven	21	1	Allegany SP	Baird
* Purple Martin	10F	1	Niag.-on-the-Lake (Ont)	Yoerg
* N. Rough-w. Swallow	6F	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Salembier
Bank Swallow	20	2	Hamburg	Pawlicki, D'Anna et al
* Cliff Swallow	26F	6	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	29	1	Batavia WWTP	Zebehazys
Barn Swallow	1	1	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Carolina Wren	5	1	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	8 - 30	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	15	2	Pt. Gratiot	Goetz
"	21	1	Salamanca	Baird
"	26	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
* House Wren	17F	2	Pt. Gratiot	Smith
"	17F	1	Bethany	Beattie
Winter Wren	3F	1	Four Mile Creek SP	Potter
"	8	6	Pt. Gratiot	Neveu
* Marsh Wren	27F	2	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
Golden-cr. Kinglet	2F	3	Beaver I. SP	Hess
* Ruby-cr. Kinglet	7F	1	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	8	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter
Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	18	1	Sheridan	Neveu
* Hermit Thrush	7F, 19	1, 9	Tifft NP	Salembier

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	9	3	Forest Lawn Cem.	Hess
* Wood Thrush	26F	1	Tifft NP	Sharon, Salembier
* Gray Catbird	15F	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	27	1	Grand I. (f)	Lazarczyk
Northern Mockingbird	8; 20	1	Alexander	Lazarczyk; Dart, Beattie
"	12	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
* Brown Thrasher	8F	1	Pt. Gratiot	Neveu
American Pipit	29	1	Batavia WWTP	Zebehazys
* Blue-winged Warbler	<u>26F</u>	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
* Nashville Warbler	25F	1	Wilson	Potter
"	26	1	Williamsville	Salembier
* Yellow Warbler	25F	2	Westfield	Pawlicki
"	26	7	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	26	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	26	2	Alexander	Dart
* Magnolia Warbler	<u>27F</u>	1	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
* Cape May Warbler	30F	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
* Bl.-thr. Blue Warbler	29F	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
* Yellow-r. Warbler	2F	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	11	2	Pt. Gratiot	Neveu
"	25	42	Amherst SP	Salembier
* Bl.-thr. Green Warb.	23F	3	Ripley & Mina	Morgante
"	23F	2	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	23F	1	Sherman	Neveu
* Blackburnian Warbler	27F	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
* <u>Yellow-thr. Warbler</u>	23, 24	1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
"	23	1	Amherst SP	Watson
* Pine Warbler	11F	1	Orchard Park	Zebehazys
"	19	4	Wilson-Tusc. SP	Potter, D'Anna
* Palm Warbler	23F, 30	1, 12	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	25	2	Wilson	Potter
* Black-&-White Warb	25F	2	Wilson	Potter
"	26	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
* Ovenbird	27F	1	Pomfret	Mosher
* Northern Waterthrush	26F	1	Tifft NP	Sharon, Salembier
"	26F	2	Portland	Mosher
La. Waterthrush	14	1	Carlton Hill MUA	Dart, Beattie
"	20	2	Chestnut Ridge Pk	Morgante
"	20	2	Pomfret	Mosher
* Common Yellowthroat	29F	1	Moss Lake	Lazarczyk (ABC)
* Hooded Warbler	26F	1	Hamburg	Morgante
"	30	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
Eastern Towhee	7F	1	Colden	K Landau
"	7F, 12	1, 6	Tifft NP	Salembier
Amer. Tree Sparrow	18	1	Wilson (f)	Potter
"	19L	1	Times Beach NP	Salembier
* Chipping Sparrow	9F	5	Alfred (f)	Lazarczyk, Brooks
"	10	1	Iroquois NWR	Hess
"	10	1	Williamsville	Salembier
* Field Sparrow	12F	1	Times Beach NP	Salembier
* Savannah Sparrow	10F	2	Clarence	Hess
"	10F	2	Bethany	Beattie
Fox Sparrow	7	19	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	9, 14L	7, 2	Silver Creek	Neveu

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	14L	1	Alexander	Beattie
"	2 – 12	1 - 3	Throughout WNY	8 other reports
White-thr. Sparrow	26	150	Tifft NP	Salembier
White-cr. Sparrow	18	1	Newfane	D'Anna
"	23F	2	Goat I.	Roberson
* Rose-br. Grosbeak	24F	1	Grand I. (f)	Lazarczyk
"	26	3; 1	Tifft NP	Sharon; Salembier
"	26	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
Rusty Blackbird	6	7	Tonawanda	Watson
"	10	5	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	12	24	South Dayton	Neveu
"	23	600	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg
"	27; 29	50; 15	Iroquois NWR	Watson; Sowinski
* Baltimore Oriole	26F	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	27	1	Ripley	D'Anna
* Purple Finch	8F	1	Wilson (f)	Potter
Common Redpoll	5, 6	35	Orchard Park	Zebehazys
"	6, 7	41, 40	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	9	1	Alfred Station	Lazarczyk (ABC)
"	21	1	Wilson (f)	Potter
Pine Siskin	1 - 30	6	Orchard Park	Zebehazys
"	17	3	Wilson (f)	Potter, D'Anna
"	18	1	Eden (f)	Andrle
"	23, 26	1, 1	Carlton	Yoerg
"	30	2	Orchard Park	Morgante
* Evening Grosbeak	5	2	Wales	D&D Suggs

Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded this year:	139
Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for this month:	071
<u>Total for the year 2008:</u>	<u>210</u>

Statisticians' Note I: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision.

Statisticians' Note II: We are asking members of the BOS and any other birders who send in reports to the BOS to advise us as soon as they can of any possible errors in regard to records published in the Prothonotary, particularly in the Noteworthy Records so that we can make any necessary changes as soon as appropriate.

Common Tern Information Sought

Common Terns are in trouble on the Great Lakes. Overall numbers have declined from 11,189 pairs in 1977/78 to 9,049 pairs in 1998/99, the last year of a total lakes census by personnel of the CWS and the USFWS. The heaviest losses over this time period (-49%) have been in Canadian waters of the lakes, while colonies in U.S. waters have increased by 12%.

Locally, the largest Common Tern colony on Lake Erie was on the east leg of the Port Colborne breakwater where 1,311 pairs were counted breeding in 1987. However, since 2004, no eggs have hatched among the few dozen pairs that nested there each year and the site was totally abandoned by terns in 2008. I believe most of these birds now nest on breakwaters in Buffalo Harbour. The primary reason for

losses in numbers of breeding pairs is competition for nesting space with Ring-billed Gulls who arrive and begin nesting about one month before terns arrive from overwintering grounds.

Biologists working at sites on the lower Great Lakes (Ontario and Erie) believe that Common Terns arrived at their breeding colonies later than usual this spring, and in fewer numbers. CWS personnel are currently censusing waterbird numbers on the upper Great Lakes and will report on the situation with Common Terns later in the summer. In the meantime, I'm curious to hear from OFO and BOS members about comparative observations of terns this year and earlier years (arrival dates and numbers at colonies that members are familiar with).

Please forward pertinent comments to Ralph Morris at rmorris@brocku.ca

Report of the 2008 Annual B.O.S. April Bird Count

Date: April 13, 2008

Weather: Terry Yonker, Compiler: Mike Hamilton

Weather Synopsis

Weather throughout the count area was significantly colder than the previous day as a cold high pressure system settled into the region. Residual rain and snow showers, plus mist and fog, covered many sections of the count area during the early morning following passage of a cold front late the night before. Wrap around moisture from an Atlantic offshore low pressure area contributed to the precipitation. Skies cleared in the afternoon and temperatures rose to the low forties. Winds backed from the northeast to the northwest blowing approximately 10 mph for most of the day, except for a brief period of gusty winds during the early afternoon.

Greater Buffalo International Airport

Sunrise: 6:37 AM EDT

Sunset: 7:56 PM EDT

TIME	WEATHER	TEMP	DEW PT	PRESSURE	DIR/WIND	REMARKS
12:00 am	Cloudy/Lt Rain/Fog/Mist	37°F	35°F	1006.6mb	SW 15mph	Cold Front Passage
3:00 am	Cloudy/Lt Rain/Snow/Fog/Mist	35	33	1007.1	NE 9	
6:00 am	Cloudy/Lt Snow/Fog/Mist	34	32	1007.4	NE 14	
9:00 am	Cloudy/Lt Snow/Fog/Mist	34	31	1010.7	NE 9	
12:00 pm	Mostly Cloudy	39	25	1012.2	NE 9	
3:00 pm	Mostly Cloudy	41	26	1012.6	N 8/G 18	
6:00 pm	Partly Cloudy	41	26	1013.7	N 14	
9:00 pm	Mostly Cloudy	39	25	1015.3	N 7	
12:00 am	Cloudy	38	27	1016.4	NW 8	

Compilation: The following is a list of species recorded on the count together with the number of individuals tabulated. Bold face names indicate species for which acceptable written verification forms were received. **F** represents first and **L** last dates for the spring migration, * first date for the year. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the section numbers are given in parentheses.

G e e s e - H e r o n s			
Canada Goose	13081	Bufflehead	1948
Mute Swan	9 (1,3,6)	Common Goldeneye	336
* Trumpeter Swan	1 (2)	Hooded Merganser	272
Tundra Swan	10 (4,20,25)	Common Merganser	227
Wood Duck	351	Red-breasted Merganser	6491
Gadwall	82	Ruddy Duck	139
American Wigeon	134	unspecified ducks	179
American Black Duck	37	Ring-necked Pheasant	15
Mallard	1194	Ruffed Grouse	14
Blue-winged Teal	86	Wild Turkey	435
Northern Shoveler	124	Red-throated Loon	8
Northern Pintail	479	Common Loon	139
Green-winged Teal	392	Pied-billed Grebe	60
Canvasback	206 (7,9)	Horned Grebe	558
Redhead	60	Red-necked Grebe	333
Ring-necked Duck	745	* Eared Grebe	5 (7)
Greater Scaup	254	Double-crested Cormorant	2406
Lesser Scaup	453	* American Bittern	F 2 (1,19)
unspecified scaup	138	Great Blue Heron	397
* Common Eider	1 (1)	Great Egret	15 (9,24)
Surf Scoter	3 (8)	* Green Heron	F 1 (28)
White-winged Scoter	71	Black-crowned Night-Heron	276 (2,9,11)
Long-tailed Duck	597		

Vultures - Cranes					
Turkey Vulture		690		unspecified buteos	2 (20)
Osprey		33		American Kestrel	198
Bald Eagle		14		Merlin	2 (3,18)
Northern Harrier		44		unspecified hawks	3 (20)
Sharp-shinned Hawk		27		* Virginia Rail	F 7 (12)
Cooper's Hawk		16		* Sora	F 1 (12)
Red-shouldered Hawk		18		* Common Moorhen	F 1 (11)
* Broad-winged Hawk	F	1 (20)		American Coot	127
Red-tailed Hawk		272		Sandhill Crane	4 (7,8)
Rough-legged Hawk		4 (4,6,18)			
Plovers -- Terns					
Killdeer		306		Ring-billed Gull	16929
Greater Yellowlegs		121		Herring Gull	2229
Lesser Yellowlegs		4 (3,10)		Iceland Gull	3 (3)
* Spotted Sandpiper	F	1 (22)		Lesser Black-backed Gull	1 (3)
* Upland Sandpiper	F	2 (8,10)		Glaucous Gull	1 (3)
* Pectoral Sandpiper	F	7 (5)		Great Black-backed Gull	47
Purple Sandpiper		3 (9)		unspecified gulls	81
Wilson's Snipe		58		Caspian Tern	92
American Woodcock		8		Common Tern	62
Little Gull		10 (2,3,9)		* Forster's Tern	F 1 (3)
Bonaparte's Gull		14945			
Pigeons - Swallows					
Rock Pigeon		1018		Eastern Phoebe	132
Mourning Dove		1493		Northern Shrike	L 1 (12)
Eastern Screech-Owl		2 (4,13)		Blue Jay	762
Great Horned Owl		6		American Crow	2826
Barred Owl		10		Common Raven	14
Belted Kingfisher		103		Horned Lark	148
* Red-headed Woodpecker		2 (20,25)		Purple Martin	60
Red-bellied Woodpecker		171		Tree Swallow	3274
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		183		N. Rough-winged Swallow	71
Downy Woodpecker		385		* Bank Swallow	F 2
Hairy Woodpecker		117		Barn Swallow	91 (8)
Northern Flicker		590		unspecified swallows	3 (17)
Pileated Woodpecker		36			
Tits - Waxwings					
Black-capped Chickadee		1251		Eastern Bluebird	225
Tufted Titmouse		202		Hermit Thrush	44
Red-breasted Nuthatch		60		American Robin	7091
White-breasted Nuthatch		228		Gray Catbird	4 (13,19,28)
Brown Creeper		74		Northern Mockingbird	11
Carolina Wren		12		Brown Thrasher	10
Winter Wren		34		European Starling	13828
Golden-crowned Kinglet		192		American Pipit	8 (5,20)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		107		Cedar Waxwing	461
* Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	F	1 (13)			
Warblers -- House Sparrows					
Yellow-rumped Warbler		69		* Louisiana Waterthrush	F 2 (8,13)
Pine Warbler		5 (11,12,20)		Eastern Towhee	30
American Tree Sparrow		103		Northern Cardinal	826
Chipping Sparrow		218		Red-winged Blackbird	7975

Field Sparrow		59	Eastern Meadowlark	138
* Vesper Sparrow	F	7	Rusty Blackbird	450
Savannah Sparrow		152	Common Grackle	5388
Fox Sparrow		68	Brown-headed Cowbird	1398
Song Sparrow		1890	Purple Finch	159
Swamp Sparrow		64	House Finch	400
White-throated Sparrow		158	Common Redpoll	71
White-crowned Sparrow		25	Pine Siskin	5 (12,25)
Dark-eyed Junco		2725	American Goldfinch	940
unspecified sparrows		20	Evening Grosbeak	6 (19)
Snow Bunting	L	9 (28)	House Sparrow	1518

SUMMARY INFORMATION: Total species observed: 153
Total individual birds observed: 129,360

COMPARATIVE INFORMATION: Associated charts, available from Michael Hamilton, compare this year's records with those for 1999-2008 and those for 1935-2008. A chart listing totals for each species per section for 2008 is also available. In addition the following notes are added:

INDIVIDUAL SPECIES SINCE 1935:

Highest counts: *Ave. = average of entire count period*: Green-winged Teal, 392 (4.3 x ave.); Wild Turkey, 435 (5.3 x ave.); Eared Grebe, 5 (35.7 x ave.); Virginia Rail, 7 (7 x ave.); Sandhill Crane, 4 (17.4 x ave.); Greater Yellowlegs, 121 (7.5 x ave.); Upland Sandpiper, 2 (9 x ave.); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 183 (6.8 x ave.); Yellow-rumped Warbler, 69 (8.6 x ave.).

Lowest counts: None

Rare count sightings: Common Eider, 1 (1st record for entire count period); Trumpeter Swan, 1 (2nd record: 1st was 1 in 2002); Forster's Tern, 1 (3rd record; previous records were 1 each in 2000 & 1994).

INDIVIDUAL SPECIES IN LAST DECADE

Highest counts: Green-winged Teal, 392 (1.8 x ave.); Wild Turkey, 435 (1.5 x ave.); Horned Grebe, 558 (3.6 x ave.); Eared Grebe, 5 (5 x ave.); Black-crowned Night-Heron, 276 (1.7 x ave.); Virginia Rail, 7 (3.5 x ave.); Sora, 1 (ave.); Common Moorhen, 1 (5 x ave.); Sandhill Crane, 4 (4 x ave.); Greater Yellowlegs, 121 (2.5 x ave.); Upland Sandpiper, 2 (5 x ave.); Purple Sandpiper, 3 (10 x ave.); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 183 (2 x ave.); Tree Swallow, 3274 (1.9 x ave.); Bank Swallow, 2 (2 x ave.); Hermit Thrush, 44 (2 x ave.); Yellow-rumped Warbler, 69 (3.2 x ave.); Common Redpoll, 71 (5.5 x ave.).

Lowest counts: Canada Goose, 13,081 (59% of ave.); American Woodcock, 8 (29% of ave.); Great Black-backed Gull, 47 (22% of ave.); Great Horned Owl, 6 (40% of ave.).

Rare count sightings: Common Eider, 1 (1st record); Purple Sandpiper, 3 (1st record); Trumpeter Swan, 1 (2nd record: 1st was 1 in 2002); Common Moorhen, 1 (2nd record: 1st was 1 in 2005); Upland Sandpiper, 2 (2nd record: 1st was 2 in 2004); Forster's Tern, 1 (2nd record: 1st was 1 in 2000); Eared Grebe, 5 (3rd record: previous records were 2 in 2007 & 1 in 2006); Spotted Sandpiper, 1 (3rd record: previous records were 1 in 2007 & 6 in 2004); Bank Swallow, 2 (3rd record: previous records were 2 each in 2004 & 2002); Snow Bunting, 9 (3rd record: previous records were 4 in 2006 & 30 in 2002).

SIGNIFICANT POPULATION INCREASES AND DECREASES:

This report institutes a change in the analysis of population change. Prior to 1966 the number of observers on these counts was fairly stable at around 150. In 1966 the Lake Erie Bird Club of Dunkirk, the Cattaraugus Bird Club, the Allegany Bird Club and the Jamestown Audubon Society began participating in the counts and the number of observers increased to approximately 250 where it has remained ever since. Given this stable number of observers it may be more revealing to compare population changes from the decade starting in 1966 to the current decade, rather than the entire count period to the current decade, as I have done in the past. And to make this comparison more scientifically meaningful t-testing has been used to compare the birds observed in the two ten year periods in order to determine if there has been a statistically significant change in the population of each recorded species. Those species which are statistically significantly different at the 95% confidence level are listed below.

INCREASES: *The numbers shown indicate the increase multiple except when no sightings occurred in the first decade, in which case the numbers in parenthesis indicate the total number observed in each of the two decades*: Mute Swan (0/84), Wood Duck, 4x; Gadwall, 4.2x; Mallard, 1.7x; Northern Shoveler, 7.1x; Green-winged Teal, 2.4x; Bufflehead, 2.5x; Red-breasted Merganser, 3.2x; Ruddy Duck, 19x; Wild Turkey, 11.8x; Red-throated Loon, 32.5x; Common Loon, 6.8x; Double-crested Cormorant, 7,740x; Great Blue Heron, 3.9x; Great Egret, 19.7x; Green Heron (0/11); Black-crowned Night-Heron, 12.8x; Turkey Vulture, 19.7x; Osprey, 5.3x; Bald Eagle, 27.2x; Northern Harrier, 1.5x; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 5.5x; Cooper's Hawk, 3x; Red-tailed Hawk, 1.6x; Merlin (0 to 22); Peregrine Falcon (0 to 19); Virginia Rail, 23x; Greater Yellowlegs, 3.7x; Lesser Yellowlegs, 3.7x; Little Gull, 14x; Bonaparte's Gull, 6.7x; Ring-billed Gull, 6.3x; Herring Gull, 2.5x; Iceland Gull, 7.7x; Lesser Black-backed Gull (0/18); Great Black-backed Gull, 19.1x; Caspian Tern, 446x; Rock Pigeon, 3.4x; Mourning Dove, 2.8x; Barred Owl, 4.3x; Red-

bellied Woodpecker, 13.2x; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 5.6x; Pileated Woodpecker 2.1x; Common Raven (0/133); Tree Swallow, 5.9x; Barn Swallow, 4.5x; Tufted Titmouse, 8.2x; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2.2x; Carolina Wren, 5.4x; Winter Wren, 2.2x; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 4.2x; Eastern Bluebird, 2.4x; Hermit Thrush, 5.6x; Northern Mockingbird, 7x; Yellow-rumped Warbler, 8.1x; Chipping Sparrow, 4x; Northern Cardinal, 1.6x; Purple Finch, 2.4x; House Finch (0/6157); American Goldfinch, 2.6x.

DECREASES: *The numbers shown indicate the decrease percentage except when no sightings occurred in the last decade, in which case the numbers in parenthesis indicate the total number observed in each of the two decades:*

Canada Goose, 39%; Tundra Swan, 20%; American Black Duck, 18%; Blue-winged Teal, 45%; Canvasback, 25%; Redhead, 32%; Greater Scaup 19%; Common Goldeneye, 31%; Common Merganser, 29%; Ring-necked Pheasant, 15%; Ruffed Grouse, 55%; Killdeer, 67%; Snowy Owl (4/0); Long-eared Owl, 24%; Loggerhead Shrike (34/0); Horned Lark, 41%; European Starling, 42%; American Tree Sparrow, 20%; Vesper Sparrow, 10%; Song Sparrow, 52%; Red-winged Blackbird, 36%; Eastern Meadowlark, 17%; Common Grackle, 28%; Brown-headed Cowbird, 35%; Evening Grosbeak, 5%; House Sparrow, 31%.

OBSERVERS (Section compilers are printed in **bold face**.) (Number of observers: 244):

- Section 1: **Lynne Landon**, Terry Yonker
- Section 2: Brian Ahara, Manley Baarda, Paul Benham, **John Black**, Kayo Roy, Dan Salisbury, Maggie Smiley, Scott Watson
- Section 3: **Willie D'Anna**, Ann Branch, Betsy Potter
- Section 4: Julie Eberhart, Neal Gordon, Doug Heckel, Marsha Heckel, Sherry Poczciwinski, Thomas Poczciwinski, Holly Sweeny, **Bill Watson**
- Section 5: Donald Brasure, Dick Christensen, Eric Christensen, Morgan Jones, Susan O'Donnell, **Thomas O'Donnell**
- Section 6: Karin Schneider, **John R. Stevens**, George Thomas
- Section 7: Barbara Byron, Richard Byron, **Mike Hamilton**, Jack Mansfield, Marg Partridge, Liz Wells
- Section 8: Doug Happ, Marcie Jacklin, Jeremy Knapton, Brian Lewandowski, Emily Lewandowski, Tim Sebuen, **Mike Zebehazy**
- Section 9: Lewis Crowell, Dave Friedrich, Michael Galas, Ron Hacker, Chris Hollister, Bernie Kester, Debbie Milleville, **Gerry Rising**, Marlene Szuromi, Maria Zawistowski, Larry Zilliox,
- Section 10: Dr. Edward Crohn, Donna DeLeon, Robert DeLeon, David Gordon, **Donald Roberson**, Mary Ann Stegmeier, John Welte, Virginia Welte, Paul Ziebarth, Virginia Ziebarth
- Section 11: Cheryl Buechi, Peter Buechi, **Chuck Rosenburg**, Richard Salembier
- Section 12: **Gregory Coniglio**, Kurt Fox, Wayne Gall, Linda Holmes, Nancy Miller, Mahlon Miller, Mike Morgante, Mark Nichter, Gail Seamans
- Section 13: Sarah Balduf, Doug Bassett, **Doug Beattie**, Sharon Beattie, Elaine Dart, Dwayne Fonda, Jr., Taler Fonda, Tad Gerace, Jack Hartwig, Kathy Hartwig, Jim Ochterski, Joe Salvador, Gail Seamans, Judy Spring, Dana Stringham, Diane Stringham, Don Thureau, Ginny Tiede, John Volpe, Mary Volpe
- Section 14: Robert Andrie, Ken Brandes, Joanne Dobler, **Fred Harrington**, Patty Madigan, Sandy Radigan, Sharon Sisti, Carolyn Willington
- Section 15: **Bill Bogacki**, Ed Ratajczak, Sally Uzunov
- Section 16: Patricia Andrie, **Robert Andrie**
- Section 17: Bob Ensminger, **James Pawlicki**
- Section 18: Chris Betrus, **Bruce Chilton**, Mike Desha
- Section 19: Ron Andrews, Pauline Barber, Ruth Boon, **Doris Burton**, Faye Clancy, Art Cooper, Barbara Cox, Bruce Cox, James Fegley, John Hasper, Dora Lilly, Dan Merritt, Meg Merritt, Sam Norton, Virginia Norton, Michael Raybuck, Teresa Rork, Carol Stonemetz, Ann Voss, Jean Wilson, **Larry Wilson**, Richard Wilson
- Section 20: Alan Benton, Karen Brisley, Kenneth Brisley, Diane Clark, Dick Clark, Sylvia Clarke, **Paul Farver**, Joanne Goetz, Tom Goetz, Joe Gula, Carol Hardenburg, Peggy Langer, Terry Mahoney, Dick Miga, Bill Moran, Terry Mosher, David Neveu, Lucille Neveu, Bob Peterson, Audrey Schafer, Mary Sherman, Jeanine Smith, Ted Taft
- Section 21: Peg Jewett, Jessie Nelson, Joanne Nelson, Bill Seleen, **Bob Sundell**, Pat Sundell
- Section 22: Paul Baglia, Ann Beebe, Rita Carden, Peg Jewett, Nancy Karp, Sue Lawton, Linda O'Brien, Bill Seleen, Herb Smith, **Bob Sundell**
- Section 23: Peg Jewett, Ruth Lundin, Steve Maggio, Bill O'Brien, Linda O'Brien, Jean Pigman, Bob Petrolino, Bill Sleen, Tom Simmons, **Bob Sundell**
- Section 24: **Tim Baird**
- Section 25: **Tim Baird**, Jeff Reed, Vicki Schwentner, James VanScoy, Regina VanScoy
- Section 26: **Doris Burton**, Frances Hunt, Bob Smalley, Bruce Smalley, Denton Willett
- Section 27: Ann Brocci, **Doris Burton**, Michael Burton, Helen Link, Marie Paxhia
- Section 28: Russell Allen, Charlotte Anderson, Dan Babcock, Ellen Baker, Don Brink, Lorna Brink, Betsy Brooks, Debbie Bucholz, **Doris Burton**, Mary Lou Cartledge, **Diane Converso**, Paul Culley, Karol Doty, Marge Dugan, Margaret Hewitt, Geri Hills, Ralph Hills, Betty Kellogg, Wayne Kellogg, Barry Lash, Martha Lash, Walter Mason, Marian McClure, Kathy McDonald, Mary Ormsby, Sean Phelan, Ann Pipal, Bob Pipal, Vivian Pitzrick, Dan Ramsey, Evelyn Ramsey, Dan Race, Ona Reynolds, Ernest Rositzke, Lynn Rositzke, Roger Smith, Sharon Smith, Maureen Soule, Wilma Taggart, Tim Timbrook, Linda Travers, Mary Trouslot, Barbara Ware, Katie Weiman, Mary Lu Wells, **Suzanne Wood**

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July – August Calendar

BOS website
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Buffalo-Niagara Region
Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

- July 27: Sunday. Canadian shoreline of Lake Erie for shorebirds.** Leader: Mike Hamilton (912-6871). Meet at 7:00 AM at Vermont and Busti near the Peace Bridge. We will car pool from there. Among other places, we will be going to Rock Point Provincial Park, which charges \$11.00 Canadian per car for entry, so bring Canadian money if you have it. Make sure you have a current or expired passport (or bring your birth certificate and photo ID).
- Aug. 17: Sunday. Shorebird Count.** Coordinator: Lynne Landon (745-9129) or llandon@daemen.edu. All BOS members are encouraged to participate.
- Aug. 31: Sunday. Canadian shoreline of Lake Erie for shorebirds.** Leader: Mike Hamilton (912-6871). Meet at 7:00 AM at Vermont and Busti near the Peace Bridge. We will car pool from there. Among other places, we will be going to Rock Point Provincial Park, which charges \$11.00 Canadian per car for entry, so bring Canadian money if you have it. Make sure you have a current or expired passport (or bring your birth certificate and photo ID).

The PROTHONOTARY



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THE MONTH: May

Gerry Rising

May definitely did not continue the warm weather of late April; instead, the average temperature this month was 3.7 °F below average. The daily temperature range averaged 44-63 °F also suggesting how cool it felt. In particular, in the period from May 12-25, which included the May 18 BOS Count date, each day was cooler than average and cooler by double digits from May 18-21. Steve McLaughlin also noted that only one year, 1997, had a lower maximum temperature than the 75 °F of this May.

Although McLaughlin also described May as "a cool dry month" and the 3.35 inch total rainfall was less than average by 4/5 inch, at least a trace of rain was recorded on 20 days. On about half of the May dates the wind, usually mild, was out of the south.

For birders McLaughlin's "little weather of interest" was matched by reports by some birders of no discernible migratory bird fall-outs. One described it to me as a month when the birds sneaked through unobserved. Even when they were observed, they were found in only small numbers.

To see what I mean, consider the warbler reports in this month's Noteworthy Records. Look at all those ones. Aside from the usual suspects – Yellow-rumped and Palm Warblers (both early migrants) – few species were reported in substantial numbers. On the May Count section compila-

Magnolia and Yellow-rumped Warblers, Ovenbird and American Redstart and you have 7/8 of the warblers. Not even counting those missing entirely, 16 species were reported in totals averaging less than one per section.

Two other examples of this dearth of birds were provided by bird banders. In Niagara County Jerry Farrell considered this a terrible migration, his captures well down from previous years, exacerbating the steady decline he had already noted. And for the first time I can ever recall, I watched Bob McKinney on the annual month-end Audubon Allegany Pilgrimage having to substitute talk about banding for his usual banding demonstrations, his many mist nets much of the time empty of birds.

Does this simply reflect a poor year for observations or does it provide more evidence for a serious long-term decline in bird numbers? Unfortunately, the accumulating scientific evidence, such as that provided by controlled studies like the June breeding bird surveys, argue for the latter.



Blue Grosbeak (immature male) photographed by Willie D'Anna at Woodlawn Beach State Park on May 12, 2008.

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tions bear out this as well with many zeros, ones and twos for individual species. Overall totals on that count are also dominated by a few species. Two of them, Yellow Warbler and Common Yellowthroat, make up 68% of the warbler observations. Throw in Chestnut-sided,

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Despite that gloomy overall picture, there were some interesting highlights this May. Among the birds of special note were Trumpeter Swan, Little Blue Heron, Long-billed Dowitcher (This is only the second Long-billed Dowitcher in spring and also second consecutive year.), Prothonotary Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Summer Tanager and Blue Grosbeak (This was the fourth accepted Blue Grosbeak for B.O.S. history.), as well as a late Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Black-backed Gull and Common Redpoll (The May 19 record was tied for the latest Common Redpoll in spring.). The verification reports for these birds provide some interesting reading. I will comment on only a few.

The Blue Grosbeak, initially found in Woodlawn State Park by David Wheeler on May 10, was seen by many observers over the next several

days. For some it was not just a state bird but a life bird as well. Pawlicki and D'Anna both noted what Pawlicki referred to as its "sideways wagging tail." What I noticed about this bird was how quickly it disappeared in the grass when it dropped from a fencepost perch to feed.

Lynne Landon found a Prothonotary Warbler, otherwise unreported this month, in Fort Niagara State Park together "with several other warblers," not the way we usually see this species.

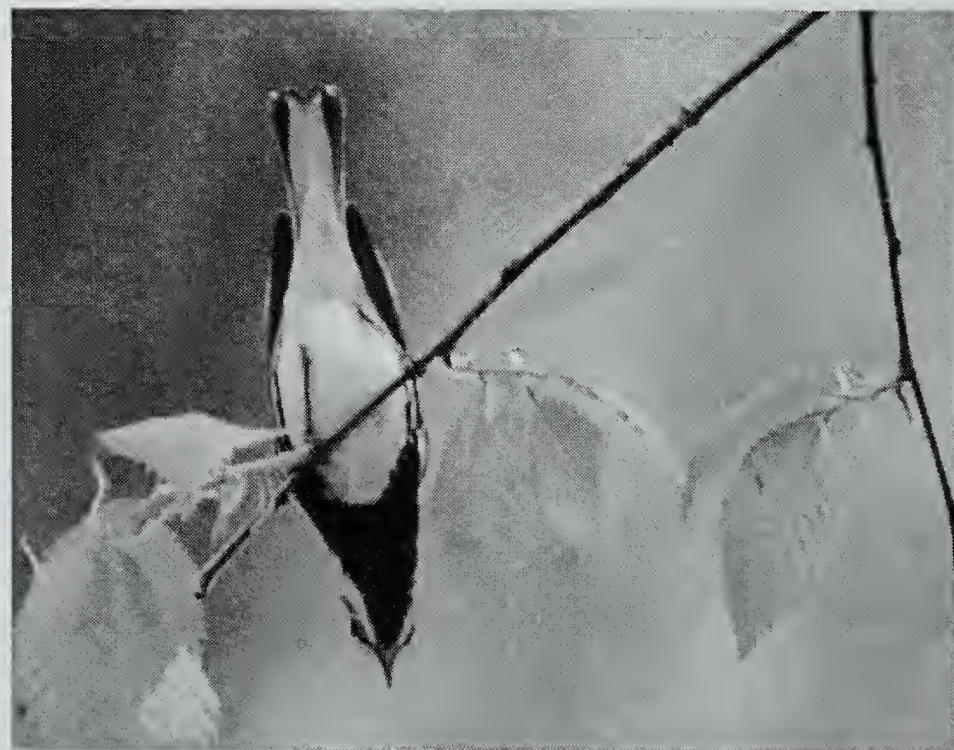
Jim Pawlicki and Sal Salembier had a quite remarkable experience in the same area of Amherst State Park on May 27. They found two rare species there, a Summer Tanager and a Connecticut Warbler. They were able to see and note the characteristics of the tanager, but the skulking warbler proved more problematic. Jim's account tells the story of their protracted search for it. I quote it here in part: "The bird was initially heard singing around 1:30 p.m. distantly in the thick tangle of honeysuckle, hawthorne and grape vines just east of the spruce grove. [Sal joined me and we] worked our way up to the ridge just to the east. The bird sang twice from just south of the ridge ahead of us about

10-12 yards away and then moved to the thick brush and sang two more times with the last song sounding more distant (~20 yards)."

"After the bird quit singing, I asked Sal to play the moderate-volume recording of Connecticut Warbler on the Birdsong Identiflyer, figuring it might increase what little chance we had of seeing it. (Limited previous experience has shown me that individual songbirds at migration stop-over sites show various reactions to recordings with some intensely responding while others show very little or no response.) Shortly after playing the recording, the bird seemed to respond weakly by singing in sequence with the recording three more times (with the bird's song very similar to the recording), the last of which appeared to be louder either as a result of the bird turning toward us or flying closer."

With no success finding the bird, Jim and Sal moved on but returned to the ridge at 3:30 p.m. when Jim's narrative continues: "We were sitting and looking around when I jokingly said in a singing voice, 'Oh here Connecticut Warbler, warbler.' The warbler responded and then about a minute later its song rang out between us and just to the south of the ridge. We stood there astonished trying to figure out what to do. The bird rang out two more times, while we both stood intently watching the area the song was coming from. Five, ten, fifteen, twenty minutes passed...nothing. We did get a nice consolation though as a reddish-orange bird somehow magically turned from a Northern Cardinal to a Baltimore Oriole to an immature Summer Tanager over the course of 3 seconds. After 6 hours of fruitless Connecticut quest, we called it quits around 7:30 p.m."

You cannot work much harder for a single bird than that. I salute Jim and Sal for their perseverance. No wonder they find so many unusual birds.



Black-throated Green Warbler photographed by Jim Pawlicki in the Town of Amherst on May 6, 2008.

Great Egret Banding at Motor Island

Bill Watson

On June 13, 2008, twenty-two nestling Great Egrets were color-banded at the heron colony on Motor Island in the Niagara River by Dr. David Moore, of the Canadian Wildlife Service-Ontario Region, Connie Adams, Senior Wildlife Biologist, and Tom Summerville, summer intern, of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Once again I will be asking for birders to look for Great Egrets with RED BANDS WITH WHITE LETTER-NUMBERS USUALLY ABOVE THE "KNEE" OF THE LEFT LEG AND THE TRADITIONAL ALUMINUM BAND ABOVE THE "ANKLE" OF THE RIGHT LEG. The band code on the red band can usually be read with a spotting scope, as the letter-numbers are nearly an inch high. In addition to the 22 egrets banded at Motor Island, 65 nestling Great Egrets were banded in a similar manner at Georgian Bay this June. Further banding is planned in July.

Although in the past most of the color banded Great Egrets are found in New York between the Niagara River and Montezuma NWR, in Ontario near the north shore of Lake Erie, and in Ohio at Conneaut Harbor, these young egrets could show up anywhere. Preliminary evidence suggests most of these birds initially disperse randomly with a small eastern bias, later they probably migrate south along or near the Atlantic coast of the United States, but we do not have the expected data from either Hudson Mohawk valleys or Pennsylvania.

Many of the adults have already started their post-breeding dispersal while the first banded fledglings should be dispersing from Motor Island during July and observers should be seeing these banded birds by the end of that month. The months of August and September have the most sightings of banded young egrets; however, we also have winter sightings in North Carolina, Florida, Cuba, and the Azores! That's right, one of these young egrets wintered in the Azores islands off Portugal and was well photographed and well documented!

If you see any color-banded Great Egrets, please record the date, location, number of other egrets with them, and, if possible, the letter(s) and number(s) of the banding code. Report all sighting of Great Egret with red color-bands to at least one of the following locations.

D. V. Chip Weseloh, Canadian Wildlife Service-Ontario Region, 4905 Dufferin St., Downsview, Ontario, M3H 5T4, Phone: 416-739-5846, email: chip.weseloh@ec.gc.ca.

Connie Adams, NYSDEC, 270 Michigan Ave., Buffalo, NY, 14203, Phone (716) 851-7010, email: cmadams@gw.dec.state.ny.us

William Watson, 771 Fletcher Street, Tonawanda, NY 14150, Phone (716) 695-2820, email: williamwatsonsr@aol.com

2008 Hamburg Hawk Watch Summary

Jim Landau

A Little Background:

This "all volunteer" spring watch is conducted at Lakeside Memorial Park on Route 75 in Hamburg and is about one mile from Lake Erie. Dedicated coverage runs from March 1 through May 15.

All of the data generated at Hamburg Hawk Watch is uploaded to HawkCount, a database of information maintained by The Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA). HMANA is a membership-based organization committed to the conservation of raptors through the scientific study, enjoyment, and appreciation of raptor migration. The main web page <http://hmana.org/> contains a wealth of additional information.

HMANA:

- *Collects hawk count data from almost two hundred affiliated raptor monitoring sites throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico

- * Publishes the semi-annual journal Hawk Migration Studies, which includes seasonal reports on the migration and more

- * Provides HawkCount, a near-real-time international database of hawk counts across the continent. (Hamburg Hawk Watch data and most other watches can be accessed directly at <http://hawkcount.org/>)

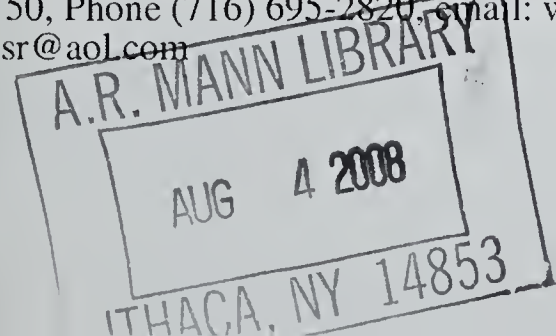
- * Maintains BIRDHAWK, a subscription email list

- * Is a driving force behind the Raptor Population Index (RPI), to promote scientific analysis of hawk count data

Spring 2008 Month by Month:

The 2008 Hamburg Hawk Watch began unofficially on February 25 when the intrepid Bill Watson logged three Red-tailed Hawks and one Sharp-shinned Hawk.

March 1st is the official start of dedicated counting. Weather began rather "lamb-like" with a balmy 63°F on the 3rd, but this was soon a memory as winter became entrenched for just about all of the month thereafter. A messy storm on the 4th caused sleet and freezing rain, to be soon followed by the largest snowstorm of the winter on the 7-8th. The 21.6 inch total at the airport made this the greatest general (non-lake effect) snowfall in Buffalo in 24 years. All the cold weather kept Lake Erie ice filled. The Buffalo Harbor was frozen solid and Lake Erie still had about 40 percent ice cover at month's end. Despite a showing of 12 species this month many observers commented on the low numbers of "quality" raptors, most attributing this to the tenacious winter-like weather. The numbers backed them up, with accipiters, buteos, falcons and eagles accounting for only 606 identified individuals, with a lone Osprey, 13 Northern Harriers and 11 unidentified raptors to add to the 5852 total. It has become no surprise in recent years that Turkey Vultures have dominated the daily tally sheets, and this month proved no exception as 5221 of them



Species Report for Hamburg Hawk Watch 2008 and Historical Records

	hours	BV	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	UR	TOTAL
Feb	2.75						1					3							4
Mar	139.33		5221	1	5	13	42	20		91		428	3		13	3	1	11	5852
Apr	172.00		4099	83	7	30	336	70	1	26	2273	503	12	1	52	6	1	70	7570
May	84.50		492	8	12	5	44	26	1	1	134	118	1	2	2	1	1	9	857
2008	398.58		9812	92	24	48	423	116	2	118	2407	1052	16	3	67	10	3	90	14283
2008	398.58		9812	92	24	48	423	116	2	118	2407	1052	16	3	67	10	3	90	14283
2007	365.97		9326	110	28	39	410	119	3	234	1575	1015	21	2	51	6	6	65	13010
2006	390.08	1	9160	113	43	50	609	121	1	238	2258	1294	40	4	63	6	4	131	14136
2005	396.25		7838	109	42	76	525	124	2	299	2503	1368	42	3	95	3	6	106	13141
2004	415.70	2	7723	91	39	104	395	85	1	270	1757	1167	95	2	74	4	3	126	11938
2003	394.80		8872	151	29	101	889	160	1	216	4998	1779	29	4	94	8	7	73	17411
2002	340.67		8505	103	23	65	611	129	2	218	1132	1223	21	1	75	7	2	120	12237
1998	129.00		2629	68	4	23	628	48	6	87	2369	711	15	1	34		1	48	6672
1993	248.00		2478	124	16	102	1113	34	1	796	2594	1912	30	1	76	1		359	9637
1992	193.00		2672	144	15	184	1314	55	1	424	5641	1954	136	1	146	2		224	12913

sailed over the watch this month. Twelve species of raptor were observed this month.

It was the warmest April in 53 years. This was due in large part to an almost unprecedented two week stretch of June-like weather starting on the 16th as a blocking high pressure ridge set up over the eastern Great Lakes. The 87°F reading on the 19th made Buffalo the warmest spot east of the Mississippi that day. Sunshine was remarkably prevalent during April with 76 percent of the possible being received. This is the greatest amount of sunshine ever recorded in April. Twenty-two days were mostly sunny while only four were mostly cloudy. Lake Erie finally lost its ice in the harbor on the 19th, about a week later than usual. All that warmth and sun-fueled thermal activity no doubt accounted for the strong numbers logged, which included the bulk of the season's Ospreys, Northern Harriers, accipiters, Broad-winged and Red-tailed Hawks and falcons. Six Merlins this month were certainly noteworthy. Turkey Vultures continued their dominance on the tally sheets. Fifteen raptor species were observed this month.

In a fairly dramatic meteorological turnaround from the very warm April, May brought with it a major pattern change and featured consistently cool weather across Western New York. The first week was seasonable, but a persistent upper level trough over eastern Canada kept a general west to northwest flow over the region for much of the month, never an auspicious wind direction for good flights at Hamburg. There were actually more days over 70° in April (9) than in May (7) this year. Rainfall was fairly frequent but light during May. Twelve Bald Eagles this month accounted for half of those observed this season. The indefatigable Bill Watson spent three more days at the watch after the close of "official" dedicated counting on the 15th, adding 83 more individuals. Fifteen raptor species were

observed this month. It is recognized that raptors will continue to migrate well into June and indeed some of our neighboring watches continue to log significant numbers thanks to the sharp eyes and skills of their paid observers.

Species abbreviations

BV Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*), **TV** Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*), **OS** Osprey (*Pandion haliaeetus*), **BE** Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), **NH** Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), **SS** Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*), **CH** Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperi*), **NG** Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*), **RS** Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), **BW** Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*), **RT** Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), **RL** Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*), **GE** Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), **AK** American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), **ML** Merlin (*Falco columbarius*), **PG** Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), and **UR** Unknown Raptor (*Unknown*)

The table presents this season's count data at the top. The bottom of the table shows the past seven seasons plus three earlier years which have been included to illuminate species high counts at the watch. Highlighted cells in the lower table indicate high counts for each of the sixteen species identified at the watch, including three years in the 90's which contain high counts for fully half of those species.

Highest March total: 6806, 2007; April total: 10766, 1992; May total: 1167, 2007; Season total: 17411, 2003.

There were no Black Vultures to be seen at the watch this season although there were sightings elsewhere in the region. This season did generate an all-time high count for Turkey Vultures. Where this annual increase will lead and what factors are driving it are questions open to debate.

Osprey numbers were off slightly from recent years but not alarmingly so, as were Bald Eagles and Northern Harriers. The three accipiter species (Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk and Northern Goshawk) continue to fluctuate slightly. Among the buteos Red-shouldered Hawks were off sharply this season with only 91 counted in March, normally their "big" month. Perhaps March's harsh weather pushed them farther to our east? Broad-winged Hawk numbers held true to their history at our watch, which is frustratingly low given some of the truly awe-inspiring migration spectacles they can present at some of our neighboring hawk watches. Red-tailed Hawks continued to show lower than might be expected and Rough-legged Hawk numbers took another hit for the second season. However, with a raptor whose seasonal movement is so closely tied to fluctuations in prey species numbers this is perhaps not as alarming as it might seem at first. American Kestrels made a respectable showing and the season's twelve observed Merlins are certainly reassuring, especially in light of reports of successful nesting in the area in recent years. Peregrine Falcons were the lowest in four years despite the nesting success of three pairs in the region.

Seventy-six days were covered this season, with only four days missed due to extreme weather. Fifty-seven non-raptor species were also reported this season, highlighted by Sandhill Crane, Iceland Gull, Common Raven, American Pipit, Savannah Sparrow, and Common Redpoll.

Acknowledgements

Hamburg Hawk Watch would not exist without the help of our volunteer observers. Their perennial dedication to the watch is a reflection not only of their passion for raptors but also their interest in furthering avian studies. The coordinator most gratefully acknowledges the considerable commitment of time and effort of Bruce Chilton, Mike Hamilton, Fran Rew, Bill Watson and Mike Zebehazy. They are out there counting at least once every week all season long. Thanks are also due to Bob Andrie, Lewis Crowell, Bob and Donna DeLeon, Doug Happ, Sharon Sisti and Paul and Nancy Vigyikan who have once again filled in any gaps in coverage. Many others stopped by throughout the spring to witness the magic of migration and their support and interest is always a welcome addition. Weather summaries were obtained from the National Weather Service Office in Buffalo.

Anyone with suggestions, questions or comments regarding this year's watch are asked to please contact Jim Landau at 9195 State Road, Colden, NY 14033, by phone (716) 941-3869, or by e-mail: kjlandau@localnet.com

Another Fine Whip-poor-will Trip

June 13, 2008

Bill Burch

A lively dinner at the Lotus Garden in Port Colborne was the first activity for most of the 14 BOS members and guests.

After dinner, we made a short stop at the meadow on Minor Road to find Sharp Shinned Hawk, Northern Mockingbird, Horned Lark, Savannah Sparrow and House Finch.

Four miles west of town we turned onto Wilson Road at 9 pm. The persons in the lead car were lucky to see a Whip-poor-will taking a dust bath on the gravel road. We slowly drove for a mile through woods resounding with the calls of birds. Lynne Landon's list included American Woodcock (flying), Willow Flycatcher, Blue Jay, Veery, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow and Northern Cardinal.

At the listening spot we saw fireflies, and one person reported hearing a green frog. The first call of a Whip-poor-will was at 9:15 pm. Soon four 'whips' were calling. It was a good display, but not one of the best. At 9:30, three American Woodcock flew over, and a few seconds later a wild thunderstorm broke. We sat in the cars until it cleared up at 9:50. The fireflies kept busy, but the Whip-poor-wills remained silent.

We regret to report that the popular Canadian birder, Bob Chambers, died on May 4, 2008. The cause was a blood clot, which brought death quickly. Bob was an active outdoor man until he was stricken with a tumor of the spine six years ago. After an operation, he was making some progress in walking, but mainly depended on his wheelchair equipped van, accompanied by his wife. In recent years he and his wife enjoyed meeting their friends on the Whip-poor-will trips.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Eighth Edition - Revised 2007) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration.

(f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicates nest(s). (yg) Indicates young.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BCh314159@aol.com.

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Mute Swan	11, 12	1	Porter	T O'Donnell
"	22	2 + 3 yg	Thorold (Ont)	Roy
<u>Trumpeter Swan</u>	1-22	1	Thorold (Ont)	Roy
Gadwall	24	2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Pawlicki et al
"	24	5	Fort Erie (Ont)	Pawlicki et al
Blue-winged Teal	24	2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Pawlicki et al
Green-winged Teal	4	72	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Ring-necked Duck	27; <u>31L</u>	2, 2	Tifft NP	Watson et al; Salembier
Greater Scaup	15; 16	7; 3	Times Beach NP	Hess; Salembier
"	24L	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Lesser Scaup	29L	2	Times Beach NP	Hess
Bufflehead	24L	4	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Pawlicki et al
"	24L	3	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
Common Goldeneye	24	2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Pawlicki et al
Ruddy Duck	6	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	13	1	Allegany SP	Baird, LeBlanc
"	25	1	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg
Red-throated Loon	24L	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Pawlicki et al
Common Loon	24	2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson et al
D.-crested Cormorant	5	175	Fort Niagara SP	Landon
"	24	550	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
"	24	150 + 54 n	Buffalo Harbor	Watson
American Bittern	11; 25	1; 1	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki et al; Salembier
* Least Bittern	15F	1	Amherst	Pawlicki, Salembier
Great Blue Heron	5	65 + 65 n	Motor I.	Watson
Great Egret	2	57 + 39 n	Motor I.	Watson
"	11 - 31	1 - 3	Tonawanda	Hess
"	25	1	Batavia	Beattie
"	29	2	Times Beach NP	Hess
"	29	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Hess
* <u>Little Blue Heron</u>	24	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Mosher et al
Black-cr. Night-Heron	5	16 + 3 n	Motor I.	Watson
Osprey	4	7 + 3 n	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	4	1	Machias	Yoerg
"	10	2	Niagara River	Sharon
"	31	5	Allegany SP	Pawlicki, Baird et al
Bald Eagle	4	1 ad + n	Dayton	Neveu
"	5	3	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
"	24, 29	6 juv. 4 juv	Sheridan	Neveu

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	1 - 27	1 - 2	Throughout WNY	7 other records
Northern Harrier	9	1	Fort Niagara SP	Landon
"	26, 30	1, 1	Eden	Andrle
Broad-winged Hawk	26L	3	Eden	Andrle
"	26L	23	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
Rough-legged Hawk	1, 20L	1, 1	Ripley	Pawlicki
"	2	1	Chestnut Ridge Pk	Morgante
Merlin	2	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
Peregrine Falcon	4	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Pawlicki
"	5	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
Virginia Rail	1	1	Alexander	Gerace et al
"	31	1	Porter	S & T O'Donnell
Sora	2; 11	1; 3	Tifft NP	Watson; Yoerg et al
"	11	3	Tonawanda	Pawlicki, Enslinger
Common Moorhen	1	1	Pomfret	Neveu, Pawlicki
Sandhill Crane	4	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	21	2	Tonawanda WMA	Watson, Pawlicki
Black-bellied Plover	9, 10	1, 3	Wilson	D'Anna
"	24	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson, Gordon
"	31	9	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
* Semipalmated Plover	3F; 4	2; 1	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki, Gordon; Watson
"	21	27	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Lesser Yellowlegs	24L	1	Dunnville (Ont)	Pawlicki et al
* Willet	19F	1	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna
Whimbrel	23	1	Westfield	Pawlicki
"	25L	2	Long Beach CA (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Ruddy Turnstone	25	8	Long Beach CA (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	25	5	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
* Red Knot	24F	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Pawlicki et al
"	25	3	Long Beach CA (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Sanderling	24; 25	3; 2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson et al; Yoerg
"	28	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Semipalm. Sandpiper	19	2	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna
"	29	11	Sheldon	Lazarczyk
"	29	110	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
"	31	225	Oak Orchard WMA	D'Anna et al
"	31	150	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna et al
* Least Sandpiper	4F	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
"	6	15	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
"	31	1	Oak Orchard WMA	D'Anna
* White-r. Sandpiper	19F; 21	2; 1	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki et al
Pectoral Sandpiper	21L	2	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	21L	6	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
Dunlin	21	36	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	21, 29	2, 2	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
"	24	74	Fort Erie (Ont)	Pawlicki et al
"	25	38	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Short-b. Dowitcher	19; 21	3; 36	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna; Watson et al
"	21	15	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
"	24	10	Dunnville (Ont)	Pawlicki et al
"	24	1	Morgan's Point (Ont)	Watson
"	25	5	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
* Long-b. Dowitcher	3	1	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki et al
Bonaparte's Gull	22	130	Beaver I. SP	Pawlicki et al

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	30	35	Wilson	D' Anna
"	31	125	Fort Niagara SP	D' Anna
Icecland Gull	19	1	Wilson	D' Anna
Lesser Black-b. Gull	19, 24, 31	1	Wilson	D' Anna et al
Glaucous Gull	23L	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Caspian Tern	1	133	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu, Pawlicki
"	24	20	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson
Common Tern	15	215	Niagara River	Pawlicki
"	19	195	Wilson	D' Anna
Forster's Tern	19	3	Olcott	D' Anna
"	26L	1	Wilson	D' Anna
Black Tern	4	15	Tonawanda WMA	Watson et al
"	10	2	Niagara River	Sharon
"	22	1	Beaver I. SP	Pawlicki et al
* Black-billed Cuckoo	6F	1	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
"	13	2	Sherman	Neveu
* Yellow-billed Cuckoo	13F	1	Fort Niagara SP	Landon
"	15	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
* Common Nighthawk	25F	1	Buffalo	Yoerg, Henderson
"	27; 28	3; 1	Alexander	Dart; Dart, Beattie
"	28	3	Elma	Collins
"	28	1	Buffalo	Hess
"	29	7	Ripley	Pawlicki
"	30; 31	20; 1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	D' Anna; S&T O'Donnell
Ruby-t. Hummingbird	5	1	Eden (f)	Andrle
"	5	1	Youngstown	Landon
"	5	1 male	Marilla (f)	Holmes
Red-headed Wdpkr	3 - 31	1 - 2	Pt. Gratiot	Neveu
"	6, 15	1, 2	Fort Niagara SP	Landon
"	13	1	Williamsville	Salembier, Pawlicki
"	19 - 22	1	Orchard Park	Zebehazys
"	21	1	Barre	Pawlicki, Watson
"	24	1	Olcott	D' Anna, Potter
* Olive-s. Flycatcher	13F, 31	1, 1	Allegany SP	Baird; Baird, Pawlicki
"	24	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
* Eastern Wood-Pewee	8F, 9	1, 1	Fort Niagara SP	Landon
"	11	1	Tifft NP	Yoerg, Henderson
* Yellow-b. Flycatcher	15F	1	Tifft NP	Pawlicki, Salembier
"	22	2	Amherst SP	Salembier, Pawlicki
"	31	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
* Acadian Flycatcher	13F, 31	1, 1	Allegany SP	Baird; Baird et al
"	24	2	Holland	Salembier, Friedrich
"	24	1	Pomfret	Neveu
"	25	2	Chestnut Ridge Pk	Morgante
* Alder Flycatcher	24F	1	Carroll	Berry
"	25	1	Tillman WMA	Salembier
* Willow Flycatcher	16F	1	Amherst SP	Yoerg
Least Flycatcher	1	1	Bethany	Gerace, Beattie
Eastern Kingbird	1	1	Beaver I. SP	Hess
"	1	1	Alexander	Gerace et al
White-eyed Vireo	1 - 23	1	Westfield	Pawlicki
"	13	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
* Yellow-thr. Vireo	8F	1	Alexander	Beattie
"	13	2	Salamanca	Baird
* Philadelphia Vireo	8F	1	Westfield	Pawlicki

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	14	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter
"	26	1	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna, Potter
"	28	1	Tonawanda	Hess
"	31L	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
* Red-eyed Vireo	10F	1	Goat I.	Roberson
"	10F	1	Orchard Park	Morgante
Common Raven	4	1	Arkwright	Neveu
"	4, 5, 11	1, 1, 1	Bethany	Beattie
"	31	2	Allegany SP	Baird
Carolina Wren	1 - 31	1 - 5	Amherst SP	Salembier et al
"	2 - 23	1	Mouth of Catt. Creek	Neveu
"	5 - 31	1	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	16	1	Youngstown	Landon
"	24	2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
Winter Wren	5	1	Pt. Gratiot	Neveu
"	13	1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	14	1	Sheridan	Neveu
"	24	2	Holland	Salembier
"	25	1	Chestnut Ridge Pk	Morgante
Marsh Wren	2; 11	1; 1	Tifft NP	Watson; Yoerg
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	2	16	Sheridan	Neveu
* Veery	2F	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
"	2F	1	Sheridan	Neveu
"	3	1	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
Gray-cheeked Thrush	24	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
"	24	1	Goat I.	Roberson
"	25	1	Tillman WMA	Salembier
"	31	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
* Swainson's Thrush	6F	1	Tonawanda	Hess
"	16	1	Amherst SP	Yoerg
"	31	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
Wood Thrush	1	3	Mansfield	Lazarczyk
"	1	2	Alexander	Gerace et al
Northern Mockingbird	5	1	Pt. Gratiot	Neveu
"	13	2	Woodlawn Beach SP	Pawlicki; Morgante
"	16	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	22	1	Beaver I. SP	Pawlicki et al
American Pipit	6	46	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Chilton
"	11L	<u>675</u>	Ripley	Pawlicki
Cedar Waxwing	26	230	Ripley	Pawlicki
* Golden-wing. Warbler	2F	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
* Brewster's Warbler	15F	1	Amherst	Pawlicki, Salembier et al
"	19, 21	1, 1	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki et al
* Tennessee Warbler	8F	1	Fort Niagara SP	Landon
"	11	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
"	11	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	11	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	27	1	Colden	J Landau
* Orange-cr. Warbler	6F	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	7, 19	1, 1	Wilson	Potter
"	10	2	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna et al
"	11	1	Woodlawn	Pawlicki
"	24	1	Newfane	D'Anna, Potter
"	25L	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
* Northern Parula	3F	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	4	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
"	31	3	Allegany SP	Baird
* Chestnut-s. Warbler	1F	1	Goat I.	Roberson
"	2	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Cape May Warbler	1, 23L	1, 1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	4	1	Fort Niagara SP	Landon
"	8	3	Sheridan	Pawlicki, Neveu
"	23L	2	Tifft NP	Watson
Bl.-thr. Blue Warbler	1	1	Silver Creek	Neveu
Yellow-r. Warbler	2	42	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	2	73	Sheridan	Neveu
"	4	150	Fort Niagara SP	Landon
Bl.-thr. Green Warb.	2	13	Amherst SP	Salembier
Blackburnian Warbler	1	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	1	1	Goat I.	Roberson
"	1	1	Sheridan	Neveu
"	2	10	Amherst SP	Salembier
<u>Yellow-thr. Warbler</u>	31	2	Allegany SP	Baird, Pawlicki
Pine Warbler	25	1	Chestnut Ridge Pk	Morgante
"	31	2	Allegany SP	Pawlicki, Baird et al
Palm Warbler	1	16	Goat I.	Roberson
"	2	55	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	2, 4	96, 47	Sheridan	Neveu
* Bay-breasted Warbler	3F	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	8	1	Beaver I. SP	Hess
"	31	1	Alexander	Hartwig, Beattie
"	31	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
* Blackpoll Warbler	13F	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
"	28	3	Amherst SP	Yoerg et al
"	31	6	Pt. Gratiot	Neveu
"	31	11	Tifft NP	Salembier
* Cerulean Warbler	11F	1	Tifft NP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	25	4	Tonawanda WMA	Salembier
Black-&-White Warb	2	17	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	31	1	Four Mile Creek SP	Potter et al
* American Redstart	3F	2	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	3F	1	Pt. Gratiot	Neveu
* Prothonotary Warbler	7F	1	<u>Fort Niagara SP</u>	Landon
"	20	1	Tonawanda WMA	Dart, Beattie
Ovenbird	2	1	Wilson	Potter
"	2	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	2	5	Amherst SP	Salembier
La. Waterthrush	2, 25	1, 1	Chestnut Ridge Pk	Morgante
"	10	1	Sprague Brook CP	Holmes
"	24	1	Carroll	Berry
"	24	3	Holland	Salembier, Friedrich
"	30	2	Allegany SP	Pawlicki et al
* Connecticut Warbler	<u>27F</u>	1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
* Mourning Warbler	13F	1	Sherman	Neveu
"	14	3	Ripley	Pawlicki
* Wilson's Warbler	8F	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
"	14	1	Wilson	Potter
"	26	4	Pt. Gratiot	Neveu

"	31L	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
* Canada Warbler	14F	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	15	1	Amherst	Pawlicki
"	15	1	Buffalo	Yoerg
* <u>Summer Tanager</u>	27	1	Amherst SP	Salembier, Pawlicki
* Scarlet Tanager	6F	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	8	1	Ripley	Pawlicki
"	8	1	Niagara Falls	Roberson
"	8	1	Sheridan	Neveu
Vesper Sparrow	21	1	Barre	Watson, Pawlicki
"	31	1	Batavia	Hartwig, Beattie
* Grasshopper Sparrow	14F	1	Ripley	Pawlicki
"	25	3	Tillman WMA	Salembier
Fox Sparrow	9L	1	Tonawanda	Chilton
* Lincoln's Sparrow	5F, 26L	1, 1	Sheridan	Neveu
"	7	1	Tonawanda	Chilton
"	24	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
"	24	1	Tifft NP	Morgante
"	25	2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
White-thr. Sparrow	2	77	Sheridan	Neveu
White-cr. Sparrow	2	1	Eden (f)	Andrle
"	2	6	Tifft NP	Watson
"	25L	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
* <u>Blue Grosbeak</u>	11, 13	1 im male	Woodlawn Beach SP	Pawlicki
"	12	1 im male	Woodlawn Beach SP	D'Anna
"	12	1 im male	Woodlawn Beach SP	Rising
"	12, 14	1 im male	Woodlawn Beach SP	Lazarczyk
"	13	1 im male	Woodlawn Beach SP	Morgante
* Indigo Bunting	6F	1	Eden (f)	Andrle
"	7	1	Bethany	Beattie
* Bobolink	2F	1	Chestnut Ridge Park	Morgante
	3	1	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
Rusty Blackbird	4	40	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Pawlicki
* Orchard Oriole	5F - 12	1 - 2	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	8	5	Ripley	Pawlicki
"	12	1	Sinking Ponds NP	Holmes
"	24	2	Pomfret	Neveu
"	24	3	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson et al
Common Redpoll	<u>19L</u>	1	Bethany	Beattie
Pine Siskin	1, 2, 4	1	Colden	J&K Landau
"	4	2	Bethany	Beattie
"	10	2	Orchard Park	Morgante
"	17	1	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna et al
"	25	1	Boston	Morgante
Evening Grosbeak	3	1 fem	Fredonia	Goetz
"	10L	1 fem	Buffalo	Yoerg, Henderson

Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded this year: 210

Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for this month, including May Count: 053

Total for the year 2008: 263

Statisticians' Note I: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision.

Statisticians' Note II: We are asking members of the BOS and any other birders who send in reports to the BOS to advise us as soon as they can of any possible errors in regard to records published in the Prothonotary, particularly in the Noteworthy Records so that we can make any necessary changes as soon as appropriate.

Report of the 2008 Annual B.O.S. May Bird Count

Date: May 18, 2008

Compiler: Robert L. DeLeon

Weather Synopsis (by Terry Yonker)

Clearing skies during the evening before the count gave way to cloudy skies and rain by late morning and early afternoon on count day. The gusty southwest winds of the previous day became steady from the south overnight and continued into the early afternoon on count day. A cold front passed through the entire BOS study area by late afternoon and early evening. Gusty west winds accompanying the passage of the cold front continued well into the evening.

Greater Buffalo International Airport

Sunrise: 5:49 AM EDT

Sunset: 8:35 PM EDT

TIME	WEATHER	TEMP	DEW PT	PRESSURE	DIR/WIND	REMARKS
12:00 am	Mostly Cloudy	48°F	42°F	999.9 mb	SW 9 mph	
3:00 am	Partly Cloudy	48	44	998.8	SW 9	
6:00 am	Partly Cloudy	46	42	997.2	S 6	
9:00 am	Mostly Cloudy	50	43	995.5	S 7	
12:00 pm	Cloudy/Light Rain	48	45	994.3	SW 9	
3:00 pm	Cloudy/Light Rain	48	44	993.1	SW 8	
6:00 pm	Mostly Cloudy	49	39	995.6	W 16/G 22	Passage of Cold Front
9:00 pm	Partly Cloudy	47	32	996.5	W 14/ G 24	
12:00 am	Partly Cloudy	42	32	998.2	W 15/G 20	

Compilation: The following is a list of species recorded on the count together with the number of individuals tabulated. Bold face names indicate species for which acceptable written verification forms were received. **F** represents first and **L** last dates for the spring migration, * first date for the year. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the section numbers are given in parentheses.

Geese - Herons

Brant	*	1	(5)	Bufflehead	40
Canada Goose		3742		Common Goldeneye	2 (7)
Mute Swan		12	(2,3)	Hooded Merganser	16
Tundra Swan		1	(6)	Common Merganser	50
Trumpeter Swan		2	(1,2)	Red-breasted Merganser	895
Wood Duck		133		Ruddy Duck	22
Gadwall		9	(7,8)	unspecified waterfowl	8
American Wigeon		5	(2,7,10)	Ring-necked Pheasant	23
American Black Duck		5	(5,7,26)	Ruffed Grouse	8 (19,20,28)
Mallard		625		Wild Turkey	125
Blue-winged Teal		4	(10,19)	Red-throated Loon	31 (3,4)
Northern Shoveler		3	(13)	Common Loon	34
Northern Pintail		2	(7)	Pied-billed Grebe	7
Green-winged Teal		2	(3)	Horned Grebe	2 (3,13)
Canvasback		3	(7)	Double-crested Cormorant	2807
Ring-necked Duck		9	(7,11)	American Bittern	3 (19)
Greater Scaup		47		Great Blue Heron	432
Lesser Scaup		8	(7,9)	Great Egret	60
unspecified scaup		4		Green Heron	57
Long-tailed Duck		279		Black-crowned Night-Heron	196

Vultures - Cranes

Turkey Vulture	248	Rough-legged Hawk	4 (10,13)
Osprey	7	American Kestrel	45
Bald Eagle	15	Merlin	1 (10)
Northern Harrier	12	Peregrine Falcon	3 (9,11)

Sharp-shinned Hawk	15		unspecified hawks	28	
Cooper's Hawk	13		Virginia Rail	2	(9,10)
Red-shouldered Hawk	3	(12,19)	Common Moorhen	3	(5,11)
Broad-winged Hawk	6		American Coot	9	
Red-tailed Hawk	138		Sandhill Crane	4	(4,6,9)
Plovers – Terns					
Black-bellied Plover	10	(6)	Dunlin	37	
Semipalmated Plover	41		Short-billed Dowitcher	*F 4	(3,4)
Killdeer	414		Wilson's Snipe	7	(10,23)
Spotted Sandpiper	84		American Woodcock	8	
Solitary Sandpiper	9		Bonaparte's Gull	246	
Greater Yellowlegs	5	(4,5,8)	Ring-billed Gull	12135	
Lesser Yellowlegs	20		Herring Gull	738	
Upland Sandpiper	1	(3)	Iceland Gull	1	(2)
Whimbrel	*F 1	(10)	Glaucous Gull	1	(20)
Purple Sandpiper	L 2	(5,9)	Great Black-backed Gull	85	
Ruddy Turnstone	*F 24	(4,5,6)	unspecified gulls	10	
Sanderling	*F 2	(21)	Caspian Tern	149	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	*F 25	(3,5)	Black Tern	21	
Least Sandpiper	236		Common Tern	590	
Pectoral Sandpiper	6	(4)	Forster's Tern	1	(23)
Pigeons - Swallows					
Rock Pigeon	741		unspecified Empidonax	7	
Mourning Dove	1333		Eastern Phoebe	124	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	6		Great-crested Flycatcher	134	
Black-billed Cuckoo	20		Eastern Kingbird	169	
Eastern Screech-Owl	1	(4)	Yellow-throated Vireo	4	
Great Horned Owl	6		Blue-headed Vireo	16	
Barred Owl	9		Warbling Vireo	224	
Chimney Swift	117		Philadelphia Vireo	2	(2,23)
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	180		Red-eyed Vireo	206	
Belted Kingfisher	61		Blue Jay	894	
Red-headed Woodpecker	16		American Crow	1747	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	155		Common Raven	13	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	33		Horned Lark	58	
Downy Woodpecker	236		Purple Martin	1163	
Hairy Woodpecker	98		Tree Swallow	2940	
Northern Flicker	177		Bank Swallow	518	
Pileated Woodpecker	30		N. Rough-winged Swallow	1274	
Eastern Wood Pewee	19		Cliff Swallow	255	
Willow Flycatcher	20		Barn Swallow	4587	
Least Flycatcher	39				
Tits - Waxwings					
Black-capped Chickadee	619		Veery	64	
Tufted Titmouse	150		Gray-cheeked Thrush	*F 2	(1,3)
Red-breasted Nuthatch	32		Swainson's Thrush	13	
White-breasted Nuthatch	168		Hermit Thrush	10	
Brown Creeper	6	(4,20,27)	Wood Thrush	182	
Carolina Wren	10		American Robin	5002	
House Wren	365		Gray Catbird	922	
Winter Wren	5		Northern Mockingbird	27	
Marsh Wren	6	(9,11)	Brown Thrasher	44	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	5	(4,11,20)	European Starling	6260	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	13		American Pipit	107	(3,4)
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	34		Cedar Waxwing	56	
Eastern Bluebird	173				

Warblers – House Sparrows

Blue-winged Warbler	56	Palm Warbler	L	25
Tennessee Warbler	27	Bay-breasted Warbler		9
Orange-crowned Warbler	2 (4)	Blackpoll Warbler		19
Nashville Warbler	36	Cerulean Warbler		1 (4)
Northern Parula	10	Black-and-white Warbler		30
Yellow Warbler	1849	American Redstart		217
Chestnut-sided Warbler	99	Ovenbird		91
Magnolia Warbler	110	Northern Waterthrush		15
Cape May Warbler	10	Mourning Warbler		12
Black-throated Blue Warbler	22	Common Yellowthroat		581
Yellow-rumped Warbler	173	Hooded Warbler		70
Black-throated Green Warbler	58	Wilson's Warbler		9
Blackburnian Warbler	27	Canada Warbler		5
Pine Warbler	13	unspecified warblers		11
Prairie Warbler	*F 6 (18,23,28)			

Tanagers – House Sparrows

Scarlet Tanager	75	Rose-breasted Grosbeak		488
Eastern Towhee	86	Indigo Bunting		104
Chipping Sparrow	1017	Bobolink		611
Field Sparrow	143	Red-winged Blackbird		5208
Vesper Sparrow	5	Eastern Meadowlark		123
Savannah Sparrow	125	Rusty Blackbird		12 (28)
Grasshopper Sparrow	12	Common Grackle		3526
Song Sparrow	1228	Brown-headed Cowbird		1100
Lincoln's Sparrow	3 (4,9,11)	Orchard Oriole		13
Swamp Sparrow	56	Baltimore Oriole		889
White-throated Sparrow	59	Purple Finch		152
White-crowned Sparrow	335	House Finch		269
unspecified sparrows	2	American Goldfinch		1895
Dark-eyed Junco	207	Evening Grosbeak		9 (28)
Northern Cardinal	684	House Sparrow		1325

SUMMARY INFORMATION: Total species observed: 204 (near average for the last decade)
Total individual birds observed: 80,651 (below average for the last decade)
Number of observers: 257

INDIVIDUAL SPECIES:

Comments: The weather may have contributed to a below average number of individuals. Many species had low counts for the last decade or more. Very few species had high counts, in contrast to the past few counts.

High counts: Mute Swan (12) 2nd highest ever, Red-throated Loon (31) highest ever, Great Egret (60) 2nd highest ever, Black-crowned Night-heron (196) 2nd highest ever, Sandhill Crane (4) tied for 2nd highest, Ruddy Turnstone (24) highest since 1995, Common Tern (590) highest since 1971, Horned Lark (58) highest since 1984.

Low counts: Sora was not observed on the count for the first time ever, Blue-winged Teal (4) lowest ever, Cerulean Warbler (1) lowest ever, Canada Warbler (5) lowest ever, Common Moorhen (3) 2nd lowest ever, Red-shouldered Hawk (3) lowest since 1955, Ovenbird (91) lowest since 1962, Brown Creeper (6) tied for lowest since 1962, Philadelphia Vireo (2) tied for lowest since 1977, Alder Flycatcher (0) 2nd miss since 1960. Nine other species had their lowest count in the last two or more decades.

Rare sightings: Trumpeter Swan (2) first count record.

VERIFICATION REPORTS

Lynne Landon and Kayo Roy.

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Section 17: Francis Rew

Section 18: **Bruce Chilton**, Mike Desha, Jim Landau, Karen Landau

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August – September Calendar

BOS website
<http://www.bosbirding.org/>



Buffalo-Niagara Region
Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

- Aug. 17: Sunday. Shorebird Count.** Coordinator: Lynne Landon (745-9129) or llandon@daemen.edu. All BOS members are encouraged to participate.
- Aug. 31: Sunday. Canadian shoreline of Lake Erie for shorebirds.** Leader: Mike Hamilton (912-6871). Meet at 7:00 AM at Vermont and Busti near the Peace Bridge. We will car pool from there. Among other places, we will be going to Rock Point Provincial Park, which charges \$11.00 Canadian per car for entry, so bring Canadian money if you have it. Make sure you have a current or expired passport (or bring your birth certificate and photo ID).
- Sept. 10: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Members' Night. Bring along your favorite stories/slides on a carousel to share with the other members.
- Sept. 13: Saturday not Sunday. Tifft Nature Preserve and Times Beach Nature Preserve for warblers.** Meet at the Tifft NP parking lot located just off Fuhrmann Blvd. at 8AM. Leader: Bill Bogacki (435-4426).
- Sept. 19 - 21: Rochester Birding Association is hosting the New York State Ornithological Association Annual Meeting.** Featured speaker is Peter Harrison, author of "Seabirds: An Identification Guide". See <http://www.rochesterbirding.com/nysoa2008.htm> for additional details.
- Sept. 24: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Michael Hamilton and Robert DeLeon will present the results of the 2008 Annual Buffalo Ornithological Society April and May Count respectively, focusing on species abundance changes from 1931 to the present.
- Sept. 28: Sunday. Western Lake Ontario Plains.** Leaders Tom O'Donnell (716-284-5569 or TMODonnell@roadrunner.com) Meet 8AM at Tops on Center Street in Lewiston in the Village of Lewiston (intersection of Route 104 and 18F). Plan for stopping in mid-afternoon. Non-members welcome

The PROTHONOTARY



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THE MONTH: June

Mike DeSha

Steve McLaughlin of the National Weather Service characterized the month's weather as "a tale of two months weather-wise across western New York. Its first half was warm and sunny and relatively dry... but a major pattern change brought an upper level low over the northeast and Great Lakes region for the second half of the month and resulted in very unsettled conditions across the region. The average temperature of 67.9° was 2.1 degrees warmer than normal and was the fourth consecutive warm June. This was a bit deceiving though as the first half averaged seven degrees warmer while its last two weeks were about two degrees too cool. ...[S]everal days reached the upper 80s and record high minimums of 71° were established on both the 6th and 7th. On the other hand the mercury failed to reach 80 after the 15th.

Rainfall was heavy at 4.91 inches [1.09 inches above the average of 3.82 inches]...the wettest June in 8 years. The bulk of this fell during the last two weeks of the month during the unsettled period. Measurable rain fell on 17 days in June - with thunderstorms on 11 of them - both about double the norm and the most in many years.

The main stories were the rare hailstorms, which raked the metro Buffalo region on the 16th. One series of storms swept across the North Towns during the early afternoon with stones over an inch in diameter... while an even more severe cluster dropped southeast across Amherst and Cheektowaga during the early evening with stones as large as golf balls. Many hundreds of cars were damaged, especially in the Snyder and Eggertsville sections of Amherst. This may have been the most widespread occurrence of large hail in the Buffalo area in history. There were also a

number of strong thunderstorms across the metro area on 28th and 29th. Lake Erie rose gradually to 69° at month's end ... two degrees above the norm for the date."

Interestingly, most of the records requiring verifications also occurred during the period prior to the arrival of the upper level low. One of the exceptions was a Brant, found first by Blayne Farnan on June 28, who contacted Kayo Roy so that both were able to view the bird. Roy then documented the sighting (photo below). This is one of the first summer records of Brant in the BOS study area. As Roy wrote in his verification, "It would be difficult to confuse the Brant with any other bird." As he described it and the photographs accompanying his report show, the jet black head, neck and chest and a whitish line-like patch on the upper portion of a small neck distinguish it from other goose species.

As noted in *Bull's Birds of New York State*, Emanuel Levine, ed., Cornell University Press, 1998, Brant are one of the latest migrant waterfowl. The number of inland sightings has increased, although few birds land unless adverse weather conditions force them down. Perhaps the unsettled weather on the 28th forced this bird to land in our area.

Bill Watson documented two Ring-necked Ducks on June 8 at Tifft Nature Preserve, likely the same birds continuing from May. He saw them again on the 19th. On the



Brant photographed by Kayo Roy at Port Colborne, Ontario on June 28, 2008.

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The Prothonotary is published monthly by the Buffalo Ornithological Society, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, NY 14211. Send subscriptions and address changes to the Corresponding Secretary, Karen Landau, S-9195 State Road, Colden, NY 14033. The regular subscription rate is \$20/year. Back issues are available from the Treasurer for \$2/issue.

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latter date they were molting into eclipse plumage. Also on the 19th, Peter Yoerg documented a Peregrine Falcon flying over Woodbridge Avenue. He suggested that this could possibly be the same Peregrine as those reported in earlier internet postings about nearby areas.

On June 3, Bill Watson and Mark Schlacter found a Willet at Oak Orchard Wildlife Management Area just across from the entrance to Swallow Hollow Trail. They distinguished it from the more common yellowlegs species by its overall grey color with whitish belly and under-tail coverts, different posture and thicker neck, black wingtips and under-wing diagnostic black and white pattern. From the archives it appears that Willets are not commonly seen here in June. There was a sighting at Tifft Nature Preserve on June 24, 1987 and on June 27, 2004 at Port Weller,

Ontario. (Watson, personal communication) Willie D'Anna spotted an Iceland Gull on June 2 at the Wilson Pier in the Village of Wilson. This is the first June record of an Iceland Gull in the BOS archives. In his verification Willie says he feels certain this is the same bird previously reported in May.

Jim Berry found a singing Sedge Wren on June 8 in the Town of Harmony in Chautauqua County. Willie D'Anna and Betsy Potter found one on the 15th and 30th in the Town of Porter.

Tim Baird documented a Yellow-throated Warbler found in Allegany State Park during an outing of the Cattaraugus County Bird Club on June 21. This species now has occurred here five consecutive years since it was found nesting in 2004 in the park during the *Breeding Bird Atlas 2000** survey. A late migrant Blackpoll Warbler appeared in Willie D'Anna and Betsy Potter's yard on June 8. Betsy heard the bird and alerted Willie who also heard it and then located it so they had a moment to study the plumage. The bird's dark black cap, white ventral body feathers without a wash of another color on the under-tail coverts, and its

familiar song all helped to distinguish this warbler from a Black-and-white Warbler. The only later recent records were a remarkable six Blackpoll Warblers found by Watson on June 10, 1995 at Tifft Nature Preserve (Watson, personal communication) and one found last year on June 18.

On June 6, Peter Yoerg and Barbara Henderson went searching for a Worm-eating Warbler in the Town of Carrollton in Cattaraugus County in habitat where Tim Baird had located some in 2006. They were rewarded with a look at a single Worm-eating Warbler. The characteristic head pattern with its dark eye line and lateral crown stripe on a buffy background, and its song, along with the typical behavior of foraging in dead leaf clusters enabled them to identify the bird. As reported in the data collected for *Breeding Bird Atlas 2000**, the nearest confirmed breeding site is in Tompkins County. But, the series of cliff faces along the northern side of the Allegheny River from Salamanca eastward seem to attract these warblers as they have been found there intermittently for several years since 1999. These areas are not easily accessible, but Yoerg suggests that they should be regularly monitored for Worm-eating Warbler breeding activity.

Richard Salambier, Bill Watson and Mike Morgante documented an apparent unmated male Clay-colored Sparrow in Lancaster that Kurt Fox discovered unexpectedly on his way to work June 9th by merely having his window open at an intersection and hearing the bird sing. Betsy Brooks reported two birds in Allegany County again this year. It is always satisfying to read reports that our declining grassland sparrows are still holding on in our area. Vesper Sparrows were reported in Royalton and Newfane by D'Anna and Potter and one in Andover, Allegany County by Brooks, and two at the Carlton Hill MUA found by Beattie and Dart. Grasshopper Sparrows were found in Bethany and Carlton MUA by Beattie, *et.al.*, in Clarence by Hess and in Tillman WMA by Watson, Salambier and Yoerg. Unfortunately, there were no reports of Henslow's Sparrows. D'Anna found an unexpected White-throated Sparrow in Wilson on the 23rd.

*Thanks to the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas for supplying Atlas data, and to the volunteer participants who gathered data for the project.

New York State Breeding Bird Atlas [Internet] 2000-2005, Release 1.0 Albany, NY. NYSDEC [updated 2007, Jan. 11] Available at www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7312.html.



Wild Turkey poults photographed by Tim Baird near Olean, NY on June 9, 2008.

Nobel Prize Winning Climate and Conservation Scientists Call Visionary Plan to Protect Vast Canadian Boreal Forest Unprecedented

Lisa McCrummen and Justin Kenney

Pew Environment Group

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One of World's Largest Conservation Commitments – Ontario to preserve one-half of its Boreal Forest, more than 55 million acres. As news spreads of Ontario's commitment to protect over 55 million acres of Canada's Boreal Forest, an area the size of the United Kingdom, leading international scientists and conservationists are expressing their strong support for Premier Dalton McGuinty's science-based leadership.

"Premier McGuinty has set a new standard for Canada and the rest of the world for land conservation by committing to one of the world's largest conservation plans," said Dr. Joshua Reichert, managing director of the Pew Environment Group. "Ontario's commitment to set aside half of its Boreal Forest helps ensure the long-term integrity of a vital ecosystem. This is truly a conservation milestone."

Ontario's plan to protect 50 percent of its Boreal Forest is considered a conservation science first and the size of this commitment is unprecedented in North American history. "This is the kind of bold leadership and large-scale thinking that the world needs as we confront the challenges of global warming," said Dr. Terry Root of Stanford University. Dr. Root is a lead author for the United Nations' International Panel on Climate Change, which was awarded last year's Nobel Peace Prize. "Solutions to ensuring the survival of species and ecosystems as they are forced to move north to adapt to our warming planet require protection of very large unfragmented blocks of habitat like what we see in northern Ontario. And making these areas off limits to industrial uses helps ensure that the carbon there now doesn't get released and make things worse," added Dr. Root.

The announcement widely cited the recommendations made by 1,500 scientists to the Canadian Government last May to set aside at least half of Canada's Boreal Forest in large, interconnected protected areas to guard against climate change and protect internationally significant wildlife populations (see <http://www.borealbirds.org/scienceletter.shtml>). These concerned scientists, led in part by Dr. Root, include some of the world's most notable ecologists, climatologists, and conservation biologists.

Scientists identify the 1.4 billion-acre Canadian Boreal Forest as one of the world's most significant and largest intact forest and wetland ecosystems. The Boreal Forest:

- Is the world's single-largest terrestrial carbon storehouse. The Canadian Boreal Forest alone stores 186 billion tons of carbon – equivalent to 27 years of the world's carbon dioxide fossil fuel emissions.

- Contains the majority of North America's fresh, unfrozen water.

- Hosts some of the planet's largest populations of wolves, grizzly bear and woodland caribou.

- Provides nesting grounds and nursery for billions of migratory songbirds and waterfowl; half of North America's birds are dependent on Canada's Boreal Forest for their survival.

"The province of Ontario should be congratulated in its vision for setting aside so much essential habitat for Boreal species," said Dr. Stuart Pimm, Doris Duke Chair of Conservation Ecology at Duke University. "In its commitment to protect 50 percent of its remaining intact forest, Ontario is setting an example for the rest of Canada and, indeed, for other countries to follow."

Dr. David Schindler, winner of the 1991 Stockholm Water Prize, water sciences' equivalent to the Nobel Prize, added, "Premier McGuinty has long-term vision, recognizing that storing carbon, protecting biodiversity, and traditional lifestyles and maintaining freshwater supplies are more important than immediate profits. Now the rest of Canada must set aside equivalent areas. The rapid disappearance of the Boreal Forest is of particular concern in Alberta, where oil sands development, logging, and mining exploration have damaged much of the Boreal outside of Wood Buffalo National Park, a United Nations World Heritage Site."

Scientists worldwide recommend that a target of 50 percent protection of an ecosystem is necessary to sustain it over the long term. Overall, only 10 percent of Canada's Boreal Forest is currently protected.

"Ontario's announcement of its intent to protect 55 million acres of Boreal forest is a breath of fresh air to a world besieged by stories of biodiversity loss," said Dr. Peter Raven, president of the Missouri Botanical Garden. "It is especially noteworthy that Ontario followed the recommendations of scientists in setting its conservation goals and one would hope that it is a precedent for the world to follow."

For the past decade, the Pew Environment Group, through its Canadian Boreal Initiative project, has been working with First Nations, industry, government and conservationists to preserve Canada's Boreal Forest, an internationally significant ecosystem for the world's climate and biodiversity. Industrial development, including logging, mining and oil and gas extraction threaten Canada's Boreal Forest.

Additional Background:

For further background and mapping of carbon in Canada's Boreal Forest see <http://www.borealbirds.org/resources/factsheet-IBCC-globalwarming.pdf>.

Additional information backgrounder and maps available on www.interboreal.org

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Eighth Edition - Revised 2007) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration.

(f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicates nest(s). (yg) Indicates young.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

<u>Species</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Brant	<u>28</u>	1	Port Colborne (Ont)	Roy, Farnan
Wood Duck	4	22	Gainesville	Watson
Gadwall	3; 21	2; 2	Batavia WWTP	Watson
American Wigeon	8	2	Buffalo	Morgante, Watson
Northern Shoveler	3	3	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Schlacter
"	3	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Schlacter
Green-winged Teal	3	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Schlacter
Redhead	11	4	Tonawanda WMA	Watson, Schlacter
"	21	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Ring-necked Duck	<u>8, 19</u>	2	Tifft NP	Watson
"	21	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Lesser Scaup	3; 21	2; 1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	7	2	Niagara Falls	Watson
Common Merganser	3	2	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Schlacter
"	18, 30	1, 9	Sheridan	Neveu
"	30	1	Mouth of Silver Creek	Neveu
Red-br. Merganser	1, 2	1	Sheridan	Neveu
"	2	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Ruddy Duck	21	27	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Common Loon	2	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	7	5	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
D.-crested Cormorant	30	497	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
American Bittern	3	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Schlacter
Great Egret	1	2	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg
"	9	4	Beaver I. SP	Watson
"	30	74	Motor I.	Watson
Black-cr. Night-Heron	7	38 ad + 11 yg	Niagara Falls	Watson
Osprey	9	2 ad + 1 n	Beaver I. SP	Watson
"	11	4 ad + 3 n	Tonawanda WMA	Watson, Schlacter
Bald Eagle	22	1 ad + 2 juv	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg, Henderson
"	30	1 ad + 5 juv	Sheridan	Neveu
Sharp-shinned Hawk	23	1	Wilson-Tusc. SP	D'Anna
Peregrine Falcon	7	1 yg	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
"	<u>19</u>	1	Buffalo	Yoerg
Virginia Rail	2	1	Four Mile Creek SP	Landon
"	4	2	Gainesville	Watson
Semipalm. Plover	3	22	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson, Schlacter
Willet	<u>3</u>	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson et al
Upland Sandpiper	12; 22	2; 7	Tillman WMA	Watson; Salembier

<u>Species</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	20, 25	1, 3	Colden	J Landau
Semipalm. Sandpiper	3	165	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	3	14	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
"	6L	47	Alexander	Dart
Least Sandpiper	1	1	Batavia WWTP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	1	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
"	2L	4	Wilson	D'Anna
Dunlin	1	8	Oak Orchard WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
"	1; 3	8; 4	Batavia WWTP	Yoerg; Watson
Bonaparte's Gull	2	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	3	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Iceland Gull	<u>2L</u>	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Caspian Tern	8	2	Buffalo	Morgante, Watson
"	9, 23, 30	20, 9, 7	Wilson	D'Anna
"	21	1	Wethersfield	Junkin
Common Tern	14, 23	6, 8	Wilson	D'Anna
"	22	2	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg
Black Tern	12; 21	10; 16	Iroquois NWR	Hess; Watson
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	3	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Schlacter
"	3	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	14	1	Youngstown	Landon
"	22	1	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
Common Nighthawk	1 - 30	3 - 5	N. Buffalo	Yoerg, Henderson
"	3	2	Tonawanda	Hess
"	3	1	Silver Creek	Neveu
Red-headed Wdpkr.	1	1	Pt. Gratiot	Neveu
"	1, 5, 30	1	Mouth of Silver Creek	Neveu
Olive-s. Flycatcher	10L	1	Niagara Falls	Roberson
Yellow-b. Flycatcher	3, 11	2, 2	Pomfret	Neveu
"	3, 11	1, 2	Portland	Neveu
"	4	1	Pike	Watson, Schlacter
"	4	2	Wilson	Potter
"	5L	1	Bethany	Beattie
Acadian Flycatcher	5	1	Villanova	Neveu
"	7	1	Harmony	Berry
"	8	4	Allegany SP	Yoerg
"	11	2	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Schlacter
"	11	1	Pomfret	Neveu
"	13	1	Carroll	Berry
"	14	2	Holland	Salembier
"	22	4	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
Yellow-thr. Vireo	3, 7	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	22	1	Carlton Hill MUA	Beattie, Dart
Philadelphia Vireo	1L	1	Buffalo	Yoerg, Henderson
Common Raven	2	1	Colden	J&K Landau
"	23	5	Andover	Brooks
"	25	2 ad, 2 imm	Mansfield	Baird
"	25	2 ad, 2 imm	Wethersfield	Junkin
Horned Lark	15; 22	1; 1	Tillman WMA	Salembier; Yoerg
Cliff Swallow	1	56 + many n	Fort Niagara SP	Landon
"	3	6	Alexander	Beattie, Lazarczyk
"	6	10 + 22 n	Beaver I. SP	Watson
"	8	5	Buffalo	Morgante, Watson
"	23	70 + 80 n	Tonawanda I.	Watson

<u>Species</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	25	4	Chautauqua Lake	Neveu
Red-br. Nuthatch	1	2 + n	Oak Orchard WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
Carolina Wren	2, 10, 24	1, 1, 2	Mouth of Catt. Creek	Neveu
"	4, 22, 30	1	Silver Creek	Neveu
Winter Wren	4	1	Portland	Neveu
"	5	1	Villanova	Neveu
"	8	1	Allegany SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	9, 12, 27	1, 1, 1	Olean	Baird
"	29	3	Ward	Brooks
* Sedge Wren	8F	1	Harmony	Berry
"	15, 30	1	Porter	Potter, D'Anna
Golden-cr. Kinglet	11	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	19	1 ad + 3 yg	Tifft NP	Watson
Swainson's Thrush	3, 4	2, 1	Tonawanda	Hess
"	5L	1	Buffalo	Yoerg, Henderson
"	8	1	Allegany SP	Yoerg
Northern Mockingbird	7	1	Harmony	Berry
"	16	1	Machias	Watson, Schlacter
"	19, 27	1, 1	Tonawanda	Watson
"	22	1	E. Bethany	Dart, Beattie
Brown Thrasher	22	5	Tillman WMA	Salembier
Northern Parula	8	10	Allegany SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	16; 21	2; 1	Allegany SP	Watson; Baird (CCBC)
Bl.-thr. Blue Warbler	7	1	Harmony	Berry
"	8	1	Busti	Berry
"	13	1	Carroll	Berry
"	14	5	Holland	Salembier
"	16	2	Carrollton	Watson, Schlacter
<u>Yellow-thr. Warbler</u>	21	1	Allegany SP	Baird et al
Pine Warbler	1	2	Oak Orchard WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
"	16	2	Allegany SP	Watson, Schlacter
Prairie Warbler	1, 6, 21	1, 1, 1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	4	2	Pike	Watson, Schlacter
"	5	5	Alfred	Brooks
Blackpoll Warbler	4	1	Portland	Neveu
"	<u>8L</u>	1	Wilson	D'Anna et al
Cerulean Warbler	1	3	Oak Orchard WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
"	8	4	Allegany SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	22	4	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
Black-&-White Warb.	8	3	Allegany SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	15, 29	1, 2	Carrollton	Yoerg, Henderson
"	20	1	Great Valley	Baird
Prothonotary Warbler	1; 11	1; 2	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg; Watson
* Worm-eating Warbler	<u>15</u>	1	Carrollton	Yoerg
La. Waterthrush	8	2	Allegany SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	14	2	Holland	Salembier
Mourning Warbler	2, 4, 9	1, 1, 1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
Wilson's Warbler	2L	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
Canada Warbler	1, 15	2, 3	Ward	Brooks
"	1, 21	1, 2	Alfred	Brooks
"	4	1	Pike	Watson, Schlacter
"	4	1	Wethersfield	Watson, Schlacter
"	7	1	Harmony	Berry
"	14	2	Holland	Salembier
"	21	1	Andover	Brooks

<u>Species</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Eastern Towhee	22	1	Niagara Falls	Roberson
* <u>Clay-col. Sparrow</u>	12, 15	1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	12	1	Lancaster	Watson
"	13	2	Andover	Brooks
"	14	1	Lancaster	Salembier
Vesper Sparrow	9	1	Royalton	D'Anna, Potter
"	13	1	Andover	Brooks
"	15	2	Newfane	D'Anna, Potter
"	22, 24	3, 2	Carlton Hill MUA	Dart, Beattie
Grasshopper Sparrow	5	2	Clarence	Hess
"	8, 9	2, 3	Bethany	Beattie et al
"	12;15; 22	3; 14; 4	Tillman WMA	Watson; Salembier; Yoerg
"	22	2	Carlton Hill MUA	Dart, Beattie
White-thr. Sparrow	8, 22	2, 2	Ward	Brooks
"	21	12	Alfred	Brooks
"	23	1	<u>Wilson</u>	D'Anna
Orchard Oriole	2	1	Mouth of Catt. Creek	Neveu
"	4, 12	1, 1	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	15	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	15	1	Newfane	D'Anna
"	15, 30	2, 1	Porter	D'Anna
"	16	1 imm	Conewango Swamp WMA	Baird
* Red Crossbill	1, 29	1, 1	Ward	Brooks

Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded this year: 263

Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for this month: 004

Total for the year 2008: 267

Statisticians' Note I: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision.

Statisticians' Note II: We are asking members of the BOS and any other birders who send in reports to the BOS to advise us as soon as they can of any possible errors in regard to records published in the Prothonotary, particularly in the Noteworthy Records so that we can make any necessary changes as soon as appropriate.

Thank You Premier McGuinty for protecting Ontario's Boreal Forest

Dear Premier McGuinty: We thank you for your bold and visionary commitment to the world's future in your recent announcement to protect 225,000 square kilometers of Ontario's still intact Boreal Forest. As scientists who have had the opportunity to carry out research and engage with policy makers around the world, it has been rare that we have been witness to conservation actions of truly historic proportions. Canadians, and really all citizens of the world, should recognize that your pledge is such an action.

It is difficult to find political leaders who will heed the recommendations of science, especially when it is not easy to do so. We are among more than 1,500 scientists from around the world who last year sent a letter to Canadian government leaders pointing out the global importance of the Boreal as one of the last large



undeveloped and wild forest ecosystems left on earth. To maintain its abundance of caribou, wolves, bears and billions of birds, its function as a global warming buffer for the world, and its ability to sustain the many First Nations that make their lives within it, we should strive to protect at least 50% of the Boreal from habitat loss and degradation. Premier McGuinty, you were the first provincial minister in Canada to acknowledge this fact and move it from recommendation to implementation.

We hope that leaders from around the world will follow your lead in increasing the amount of protected areas in their regions. We particularly hope that other Canadian provinces will accept Ontario's challenge to raise the conservation bar. We look forward to seeing the results of this commitment in Ontario and throughout Canada over the next decade.

Sincerely,

Pascal Badiou, Ph.D.
Ducks Unlimited Canada and
University of Manitoba

John Jacobs, Ph.D.
Memorial University of
Newfoundland

Jeremy Kerr, Ph.D.
University of Ottawa
Micheline Manseau, Ph.D.
University of Manitoba

Stuart Pimm, Ph.D.
Duke University

Peter Raven, Ph.D.
Washington University
in St. Louis and Missouri
Botanical Garden

Terry Root, Ph.D.
Stanford University

Nigel Roulet, Ph.D.
McGill School of Environment
James Schaeffer, Ph.D.
Trent University

David Schindler, Ph.D.
University of Alberta

James Strittholt, Ph.D.
Conservation Biology Institute

Nancy Turner, Ph.D.
University of Victoria

Andrew Weaver, Ph.D.
University of Victoria



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August – September Calendar

BOS website
<http://www.bosbirding.org/>



Buffalo-Niagara Region
Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

- Aug. 31: Sunday. Canadian shoreline of Lake Erie for shorebirds. Leader:** Mike Hamilton (912-6871). Meet at 7:00 AM at Vermont and Busti near the Peace Bridge. We will car pool from there. Among other places, we will be going to Rock Point Provincial Park, which charges \$11.00 Canadian per car for entry, so bring Canadian money if you have it. Make sure you have a current or expired passport (or bring your birth certificate and photo ID).
- Sept. 10: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Members' Night.** Bring along your favorite stories/slides on a carousel to share with the other members.
- Sept. 13: Saturday not Sunday. Tifft Nature Preserve and Times Beach Nature Preserve for warblers.** Meet at the Tifft NP parking lot located just off Fuhrmann Blvd. at 8AM. Leader: Bill Bogacki (435-4426).
- Sept. 19 - 21: Rochester Birding Association is hosting the New York State Ornithological Association Annual Meeting.** Featured speaker is Peter Harrison, author of "Seabirds: An Identification Guide". See <http://www.rochesterbirding.com/nysoa2008.htm> for additional details.
- Sept. 24: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Michael Hamilton and Robert DeLeon will present the results of the 2008 Annual Buffalo Ornithological Society April and May Count respectively, focusing on species abundance changes from 1935 to the present.
- Sept. 28: Sunday. Western Lake Ontario Plains.** Leader: Bill Broderick, bjbroderick@macronet.com or 716-745-3969. Meet 8AM at Tops on Center Street in Lewiston in the Village of Lewiston (intersection of Routes 104 and 18F). Plan for stopping in mid-afternoon. Non-members welcome.

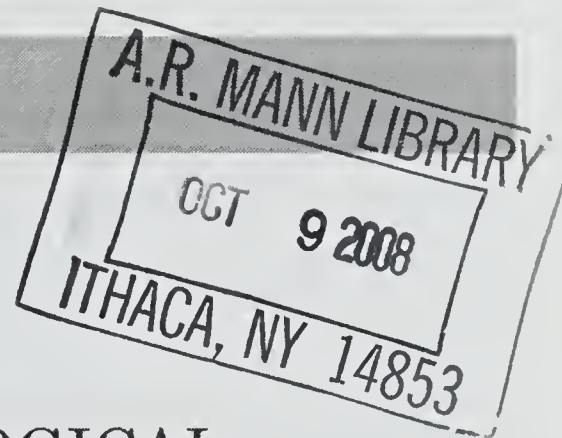
The PROTHONOTARY



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THE MONTH: July

Elizabeth Wells

According to the National Weather Service's numbers, July's weather was normal. Temperatures were 0.6 degrees above normal at 71.4 °F, with a high temperature of 87 °F, and a low of 52 °F, with 20 days within 3 degrees (+ or -) of normal. Precipitation was 2.80 inches, 0.34 inches below normal. Humidity was moderate, Lake Erie was 74 °F, 1 degree within normal, and winds were light to moderate throughout the month. We had 66 percent sunshine, with 67 percent the normal. We had 15 days that were mostly sunny, 4 that were mostly cloudy.

But as Steve McLaughlin of the NWS reports it was "a seasonably warm but rather unsettled July...[S]tatistics can be deceiving and this was certainly true during July in Western New York." July seemed to follow some of June's patterns. The beginning of the month was fairly dry, although somewhat cooler than average for the first few days. But as in June, by mid-month an upper level low had settled in over Eastern Canada, resulting in almost daily showers or thunderstorms during the last third of the month. These tended to follow typical lake effect patterns, although they seemed they could hit anywhere. Heavy rain occurred daily from the 22nd-24th, with up to 2 inches in the Northtowns the first two days and in the Southtowns on the third. Some of the northern areas saw as many as 20 days of rain during June and July.

While kayaking along the west side of Strawberry Island in the Niagara River, Gerald Teal discovered a Yellow-crowned Night Heron in the early evening of July 3rd. There are fewer than 20 records for this species in the BOS archives. Most reports are single birds seen for a few days, but they have been recorded as staying for longer periods. Records show at sightings at Tonawanda WMA from June 26 through July 24, 1988 and one at Tifft Nature Preserve between June 2 - 23, 1987. Prior to this sighting, the most recent reported sighting of a Yellow-Crowned Night Heron

was in August of 2002 in Wainfleet, Ont. by W. D'Anna. While only seen sporadically in our area, a breeding attempt may be possible. This adult bird was found near the Motor Island colony of Black-crowned Night Herons during the breeding season.

On July 13th, Jerry Lazarczyk sighted and photographed two Willets (A) and five American Avocets (B, three shown) at Dunkirk Harbor. This is the second July in a row both species have been found there at the same time. While the excitement seems to center around the avocets appearance in Dunkirk, the story seems to lie with the Willets. The Willets seen in Dunkirk are the *western* subspecies, distinguishable from the eastern subspecies by the gener-



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ally larger body size, longer legs, and more graceful shape overall. The western subspecies bill is darker, thinner and longer than the eastern subspecies and the plumage is grayer and paler than the eastern subspecies, which tends to be more brown and darker.

A Franklin's Gull was spotted at the west end of Main St. Beach, adjacent to Dunkirk Harbor, with Ring-billed Gulls on July 20 by Jerry Lazarczyk, Peter Yoerg, Barbara Henderson, Dick Miga, and Dave Neveu (see photograph below). Peter Yoerg describes the gull, "a classic breeding plumage bird, much smaller than the surrounding Ring Bills..." with all necessary field marks. Another Midwestern breeding bird, we generally do not see them migrating through until early August. There are two previous July records, one in 1972 at Times Beach (Bournes et al), and another in Barcelona, Chautauqua Co., in

1992 (Sundell).

On July 26 Willie D'Anna, Betsy Potter, Celeste and Tom Morien reported two adult Forster's Tern in alternate plumage among some Common Terns on the Wilson piers in Lake Ontario at the mouth of Twelve Mile Creek. Distinguished from Common Terns by "slightly larger size, longer legs, thicker bill, longer tail that extended well past the primary tips" and a "stronger orange tone to the legs and bill base..." (D'Anna.) This is also early for a migrating Forster's Tern, which come through about the same time as the Franklin's Gulls. One previous July record was in 2006 by J. Pawlicki and W. Watson at Fort Niagara SP.

There were two unseasonal reports of Red Crossbills in WNY this July. A dozen birds were seen in Orchard Park on July 21st by Mike Morgante. On July 25th, Bruce Chilton had approximately 50 Red Crossbills at Oakland Rural Cemetery in the Town of Porter. He was alerted by their calls. He noted the red of the breast and upper neck, proportionally large head to body size, thick bill and notched tails when they flew. They also flew in a "tight flock", typical of

the species. These are now the two highest counts of Red Crossbills for the BOS study area in the month of July.

While it may be unusual to see Red Crossbill in our area in July, it is not unusual to see them in areas they generally don't occur. Red Crossbill sightings are erratic and not specific to location. This time of year their range in New York State is primarily in the Adirondacks. But Red Crossbills are highly dependent on cone crops, predominantly pine, hemlock, larch and spruce, depending on their "Type", which is determined primarily through beak size and call. Cone crops can vary locally, as Matt Young mentions on GeneseeBirds, Summerhill and Morgan Hill State Forest (Cortland/Onondaga County line) in Central New York have produced crops rated excellent this year, while only a few miles away in Hammond Hill State Forest cone crops are rated as only fair. Cone production may also be affected over larger geographic areas. For instance, in 2007 Ron Pittaway of Ontario Field Ornithologists reports "coniferous and deciduous trees have very poor seed crops in much of Ontario and western Quebec", sending many winter finch species east, west and south. When we see higher numbers, there may be crop failure within their range, and a good harvest locally.

In Bull's Birds of NYS, Jeff Groth mentions nesting Red Crossbills may have been common in New York State prior to extensive deforestation around 1900. (citing Dickerman 1987). As second growth forest conifers are now maturing, we might hope to see them more often.

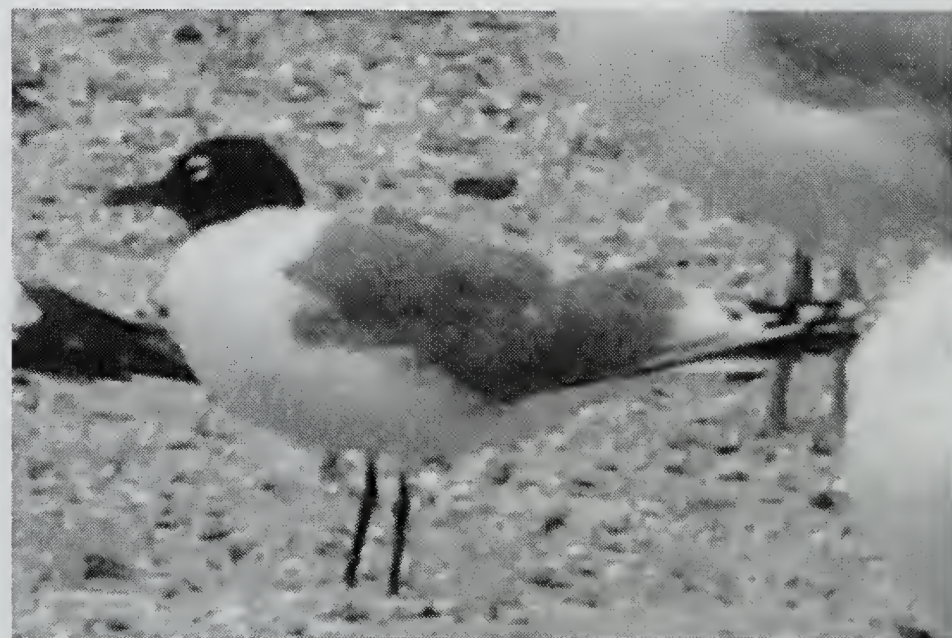
Thank you to Jim Pawlicki, Dave Suggs, Mike Morgante, and Steve McLaughlin of the National Weather Service.

O'Brian, M., R. Crossly and K. Carlson. 2006. The Shorebird Guide. Houghton Mifflin Co.

Groth, J., in Bulls Birds of New York State. 1998. E. Levine, Ed. Comstock Publishing Assoc.

Geneseebirds <http://mail.geneseo.edu/mailman/private/geneseebirds-l/2008-July/thread.html>

Pittaway R., Ontario Field Ornithologists
 15 September 2007 <http://www.ofo.ca/reportsandarticles/winterfinches.php>



Franklin's Gull photographed by Jerry Lazarczyk at Main Street Beach in Dunkirk, NY on July 20, 2008.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Eighth Edition - Revised 2007) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration.

(f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicates nest(s). (yg) Indicates young.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

<u>Species</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Gadwall	4	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Blue-winged Teal	4	2	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Green-winged Teal	4	6	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Ring-necked Duck	4	2	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Lesser Scaup	8	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Common Merganser	2	1 f + 12 yg	Allegany SP	Hess
"	9, 10	25, 37	Sheridan	Neveu
Ruddy Duck	4; 28	35; 4	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Salembier
D.-crested Cormorant	4	56	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	14, 31	701, 843	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	15	1150	Mohawk I. (Ont)	Watson
"	15	78 + 57 n	Goat I.	Watson
"	31	843	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
American Bittern	4	1	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Least Bittern	2	1	Tifft NP	Watson
Great Egret	4; 28	3; 3	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Salembier
"	10	89	Motor I.	Watson
"	13	1	Alexander	Dart
"	27	92	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Green Heron	31	16	Alexander	Beattie
Black-cr. Night-Heron	21	31 imm	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
* <u>Yel.-cr. Night-Heron</u>	3	1	Strawberry I.	Teal
Osprey	1 - 5	3 n + yg	Allegany SP	Hess
"	5, 25	1, 1	Mouth of Catt. Creek	Neveu
"	16	3 ad+1 yg	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	16	2 ad + 3 yg	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Bald Eagle	4, 16	1 ad, 1 imm	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	5	3 imm	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	5 - 30	1 - 7 (imm)	Sheridan	Neveu
"	24	1 imm	Mouth of Silver Creek	Neveu
"	27	2 imm	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	31	1 ad	Busti	Neveu
Red-shouldered Hawk	5, 26	2	Orchard Park	Morgante
Red-tailed Hawk	5	1 (leucistic)	Ashford	Yoerg, Henderson
Peregrine Falcon	<u>7, 18</u>	1 imm	UB south campus	Yoerg, Henderson
"	20	2	Buffalo	Yoerg, Henderson
Virginia Rail	22	1	Alexander	Lazarczyk, Beattie
Sora	22	1	Alexander	Lazarczyk, Beattie
Common Moorhen	2	1 ad + 3 yg	Tifft NP	Watson

<u>Species</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
American Coot	4	4	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	14	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
Semipalm. Plover	8F	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
* <u>American Avocet</u>	9, 13	5, 4	Dunkirk Harbor	Lazarczyk et al
Greater Yellowlegs	15F	1	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson, Gordon
"	27	2	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Lesser Yellowlegs	15F	23	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson
"	27	2	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Solitary Sandpiper	27F	1	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	29	1	Dunkirk	Neveu
Willet	<u>13F</u>	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Lazarczyk, Neveu et al
Spotted Sandpiper	4	46	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Upland Sandpiper	6	3	Tillman WMA	Salembier, Pawlicki
Sanderling	27F	3	Buffalo	Yoerg, Henderson
Semipalm. Sandpiper	15F	3	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson, Gordon
"	27	40	Wainfleet (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Least Sandpiper	5F	3	Sheridan	Neveu
"	8	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	13	15	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Short-b. Dowitcher	15F	2	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson, Gordon
Wilson's Snipe	3, 6	2, 2	Alexander	Dart
Franklin's Gull	<u>20</u>	1 ad	Dunkirk Harbor	Yoerg; Lazarczyk
Bonaparte's Gull	4, 27	24, 2 ad	Wilson	D'Anna
"	27	13	Rock Pt. PP (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Caspian Tern	5-30	8 max	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	15	15	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
"	16	1	Tonawanda	Hess
"	24	2	Buckhorn I. SP	Hess
Common Tern	15; 27	105; 250	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson; Yoerg et al
Forster's Tern	<u>26F</u>	2	Wilson	D'Anna et al
Black Tern	4	26	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	23,24,30	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	5	1	Orchard Park	Morgante
Barred Owl	2	1 ad+2 yg	Orchard Park	Morgante
Common Nighthawk	1 - 31	1 - 3	Buffalo	Yoerg, Henderson
* <u>Whip-poor-will</u>	27	3	Wainfleet (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Red-headed Wdpr.	14	3 ad+1 imm	Pt. Gratiot	Watson
"	15	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson, Gordon
"	16	2 ad + 2 yg	Mouth of Silver Creek	Neveu
Acadian Flycatcher	1 - 5	3	Allegany SP	Hess
"	6	1	Salamanca	Baird
"	6	4	Deer Lick NP	Neveu
"	26	1	Carroll	Berry
"	26	1	Hanover	Neveu
"	27	3	Chestnut Ridge Pk	Morgante
Yellow-throated Vireo	15	1 ad + 1 yg	Red House	Baird
Common Raven	1, 14, 17	1, 2, 2	Andover	Brooks
"	6	2	Salamanca	Baird
"	13	2	Arkwright	Neveu
"	26	2	Bethany	Beattie
Horned Lark	6	2	Tillman WMA	Pawlicki, Salembier
"	10	1	Linden	Beattie et al
Purple Martin	19	18	Wolcottsville	Beattie
"	27	9	Bethany	Beattie

<u>Species</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Bank Swallow	5	30	Four Mile Creek SP	Chilton, Brasure
Cliff Swallow	5	1	Harmony	Berry
"	18	30	Andover	Brooks
"	22	30 ad+102 n	Tonawanda I.	Watson
Red-br. Nuthatch	1 - 31	1 - 2	Williamsville	Salembier
"	4	2 ad + 4 yg	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Carolina Wren	5 - 25	1 - 3	BOS study area	7 records
Winter Wren	6	1	Salamanca	Baird
"	6	1	Deer Lick NP	Neveu
"	6, 26	1, 1	Carroll	Berry
"	13,18,19	1, 1, 2	Ward	Brooks
Sedge Wren	1	1	North Harmony	Lazarczyk, Smith
Marsh Wren	4	1	Sherman	Berry
Swainson's Thrush	4	1	Allegany SP	Hess
Hermit Thrush	6	1	Deer Lick NP	Neveu
"	30	1	Ward	Brooks
Northern Mockingbird	4	2	Tonawanda	Watson
"	5	1	Ashford	Yoerg, Henderson
"	21	1	Tift NP	Salembier
"	25	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Salembier
Northern Parula	1 - 5	3	Allegany SP	Hess
Black-thr. Blue Warb.	6, 27	1, 1	Carroll	Berry
Pine Warbler	17	1	Sheridan	Neveu
"	27	1	Chestnut Ridge Pk	Morgante
Prairie Warbler	2, 16, 17	2, 1, 2	Andover	Brooks
"	5	8	Yorkshire	Yoerg, Henderson
Cerulean Warbler	6	1	Deer Lick NP	Neveu
"	15	1	Red House	Baird
La. Waterthrush	1 - 5	3	Allegany SP	Hess
"	20	2	South Valley	Baird
Canada Warbler	4	1	Sherman	Berry
"	18, 20	1, 1	Alfred	Brooks
"	27	1	Carroll	Berry
Vesper Sparrow	5	5	Ashford	Yoerg, Henderson
"	10	1	Carlton Hill MUA	Beattie et al
Grasshopper Sparrow	4, 10	1, 1	Bethany	Beattie
"	6	7	Tillman WMA	Salembier, Pawlicki
"	10	1	Carlton Hill MUA	Lazarczyk et al
White-thr. Sparrow	10, 20	4, 4	Andover	Brooks
"	27	3	Ward	Brooks
Eastern Meadowlark	6	9	Tillman WMA	Salembier, Pawlicki
Orchard Oriole	6	1	Tillman WMA	Pawlicki, Salembier
"	28	2	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
Purple Finch	1 - 31	3 - 6	Williamsville	Salembier
Red Crossbill	<u>21</u>	12	Orchard Park	Morgante
"	<u>25</u>	50	Oakland Rural Cem.	Chilton

Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded this year: **267**

Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for this month: **003**

Total for the year 2008: **270**

Statisticians' Note I: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision.

Statisticians' Note II: We are asking members of the BOS and any other birders who send in reports to the BOS to advise us as soon as they can of any possible errors in regard to records published in the Prothonotary, particularly in the Noteworthy Records so that we can make any necessary changes as soon as appropriate.

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October – November Calendar

BOS website
<http://www.bosbirding.org/>



Buffalo-Niagara Region
Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

Oct. 8: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.

Oct. 12: Sunday. BOS Annual October Count. All BOS members are expected to participate and additional all help is much appreciated. It's always a great count, so if you would like to join us please contact: Mike Hamilton 881-6709 or mhsr@wzrd.com. Remember, anyone can participate.

Oct. 22: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Jean Iron, former president of the Ontario Field Ornithologists, spent 7 weeks this past summer surveying shorebirds on Aki-miski Island in James Bay. Jean will discuss identification, aging, molt strategies, shorebird habitats, and the isolated breeding population of Marbled Godwits on James Bay.

Oct. 25: Saturday not Sunday. Lake Ontario Plain Field Trip for fall migrants. Leader: Willie D'Anna (751-3637 or dannapotter@roadrunner.com). Meet 8AM at Tops Market in Wright's Corners. This is on the east side of Route 78 at Route 104.

Nov. 12: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Former Buffalo Ornithological Society President Terry Yonker will do a power point presentation on the proposed Niagara River Corridor Bird Observatory. It is the presentation he gave the Niagara County Environmental Fund and the Niagara River Ecosystem Task Force.

The PROTHONOTARY



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THE MONTH: August

Jerry Lazarczyk

After a number of years, we have a new NOAA meteorologist at the Buffalo airport, Mr. Hitchcock. According to Hitchcock, August 2008 was seasonably cool and unsettled. Paraphrasing Mr. Hitchcock, August 2008 will go in the record books as cooler and wetter than average. The mean temperature was 68.5 °F, 0.6 degrees below normal, and the monthly precipitation was 5.33 inches, 1.46 inches below normal. There were 16 days with measurable rainfall compared to the normal ten.

Almost all of the rainfall came with thunderstorms and some areas of the Buffalo metropolitan area picked up considerably heavier rainfall than the airport. In fact, several spotters in the Southtowns reported close to 7 inches of rain for the month. A good portion of this rain came on August 10th when flash flooding was reported in areas from Lancaster and Depew to West Seneca. There were several more severe thunderstorms producing large hail in the Buffalo metropolitan area during the month, capping off a summer with the most hail in recent memory.

The coolest and most unsettled period came in the middle of the month with 10 days in a row of below average temperatures from the 7th through the 16th. During this same time period from the 7th through the 15th there was measurable rain on all but one day. A very persistent and deep trough of low pressure anchored over the Great Lakes and New England was responsible for this extended period of unusually cool and wet weather.

reached 90 °F during the month of August, and never reached 90 °F the entire summer season. On average, the Buffalo airport has three days of 90 °F or warmer each summer.

Despite the unsettled weather at times, sunshine was exactly average with 64 per cent of possible sunshine recorded at the airport.

Perhaps because of the cool and wet month, we seem to have hit a new low in good bird reports on my watch. Perhaps the birders did not want to go out and get wet or hailed upon.

A Trumpeter Swan was found in the Department of Environmental Conservation's Clay Pond Wildlife Management Area east of Falconer, NY by Miley Miller in May of this year and corroborated by Jim Berry, both of the Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History. The swan wore bright yellow wing tags with "D65" in black which Jim Berry researched and noted that the Trumpeter was a 2006 hatchling male tagged 9/14/06 at Grand Valley in the

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There were two new records set for the month. A record cool high temperature was set on August 10th with a high of only 64 °F. On the 22nd a new record high was established when the mercury rose to 88 °F. The temperature never



White-winged Dove photographed by Scott A. Watson in St. Catharines, Ontario on October 9, 2008. This is the same individual observed since July 21st at the private residence.

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province of Ontario, Canada. Grand Valley is between Owen Sound and Hamilton. The swan was seen over the summer by several birders and verified by Jim Berry. In the BOS Date Guide the Trumpeter Swan is a required Verification Report. The BOS Seasonal Checklist of the Birds shows it as beyond Exceptional except for a few sightings in January and February. The Seasonal Checklist also noted the Trumpeter Swan is "Recently (re)introduced, northeast North America". The Trumpeter Swan is not even mentioned in Bull's Birds of New York State. The BOS database maintained by David Suggs has only one August entry (and no July records) for Trumpeter Swan in 2002 by William Watson at the Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant. The Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region by Beardslee and Mitchell describe the Trumpeter Swan as

"Hypothetical", alluding to a "trumpeter swan, presented by John Weeks, which had been shot on the Tifft Farm in April [1863]".

On Tuesday, 12 August 2008, Brian Ahara and Kayo Roy observed a White-Winged Dove and Kayo Roy then completed a Verification Report. Kayo provided a very detailed description of the field marks. The bird was first reported at a St. Catharines, Ontario residence in July but the owners went on holiday before the bird could be verified and so it was not until August before Kayo finally got to see it. The BOS Verification Date Guide requires a Verification Report for any observation of the White-winged Dove. The BOS Seasonal Checklist of the Birds does not mention the White-winged Dove therefore making the bird beyond Exceptional (less than one record per time period). Bull's Birds of New York State notes the northerly expansion of the White-winged Dove is primary along the Atlantic Coast with few inland sightings. There is one previous White-winged Dove record in the BOS database (1965-present) and none in Beardslee and Mitchell (pre-1965). (See Statisticians Note on Page 78)

Jim Pawlicki spotted a Jaeger species from Fort Niagara State Park on August 24th and verified it. Despite the rain and distance of over 400 yards, Jim was able to note Jaeger field marks in a very descriptive Verification Report. All three Jaeger species, with some date and location exceptions for Parasitic Jaeger, require a Verification Report per the BOS Verification Date Guide. The Pomarine and Long-tailed Jaegers are beyond Exceptional in our Region in August while the Parasitic Jaeger is Very Rare in the latter half of August according to the BOS Seasonal Checklist of the Birds. Bull's Birds of New York says that Jaeger species are known on Lake Erie, the Niagara River and Lake Ontario especially in the migrations. Bull's Birds of New York rates the Jaeger species as Rare. Beardslee And Mitchell (pre-1965) speak of a number of instances for at least two of the Jaeger species. The BOS database has only two August Jaeger records and no Long-tailed Jaeger records.

A Spotted Dove (photograph below), that came into Carol Levine's Amherst feeders, was called in to Gerry Rising. Carol opted to not have birders visit her home, as is her prerogative and we are thankful that she allowed a couple of birders to visit and verify the bird. Gerry submitted a verification report, as I did later, to cover this unusual bird. Our highly regarded statisticians decided to accept the verification reports for the Spotted Dove but noted that for a variety of reasons that it would be as an "exotic species-likely escapee" as explained elsewhere in this issue (see page 79). The Spotted Dove was not mentioned in the BOS Seasonal Checklist of the Birds nor the BOS Verification Date Guide nor Bull's Birds of New York State nor the Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region nor the BOS database.

Bill Watson observed two adult male Ring-necked Ducks in eclipse plumage at the Tifft Nature Preserve. He verified the sighting with a very detailed description of the Very Rare in August waterfowl per the BOS Seasonal Checklist of the Birds. The BOS Verification Date Guide specifies a Validation Report for August sightings of the Ring-necked Ducks. The BOS database (1965-present) has



Spotted Dove photographed by Jerry Lazarczyk in Amherst, NY on August 22, 2008.

only 13 entries for August, most of the entries were submitted by Watson, and most entries were from Ring-necked Ducks seen at the Batavia Waste Water treatment Plant, seen by Watson and others. The earliest August entry dates are from 1971 in Westfield, NY harbor by the Carlsons. The Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region does not list a summer sighting after June 1st and before September 15th. Bull's Birds of New York State says "Summering non-breeders are infrequent, but it has been recorded in every month".

A Philadelphia Vireo gave Jim Pawlicki a quick look at Rock Point Provincial Park in Ontario on August 19th. Though it was a short view, Jim was able to distinguish the species especially since he has seen so many during the migrations. Jim saw the bird just prior to the August 20th cutoff thereby requiring a Verification Report per the BOS Verification Date Guide. The Philadelphia Vireo is beyond Exceptional for the date in August when Jim observed it per the BOS Seasonal Checklist of the Birds. The BOS database has no August entries prior to nor including the date that Jim enjoyed seeing the bird. Beardslee and Mitchell (pre-1965 database) relates one entry from August 15th, coincidentally from Morgan's Point, Ontario by Richard Rosche and others. They considered the Philadelphia Vireo as always Uncommon or Rare in the Niagara Frontier Region, attributing more numerous sightings in recent years (but prior to 1965) to the larger number of observers in the field. Bull's Birds of New York State considers the Philadelphia Vireo a Rare to Uncommon migrant in New York, more common in the western portion of the state.

I would like to thank David Suggs for going the extra distance in providing the BOS Database. This database includes records from 1965 to present. Pre-1965 records came mostly from Beardslee and Mitchell's Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region.

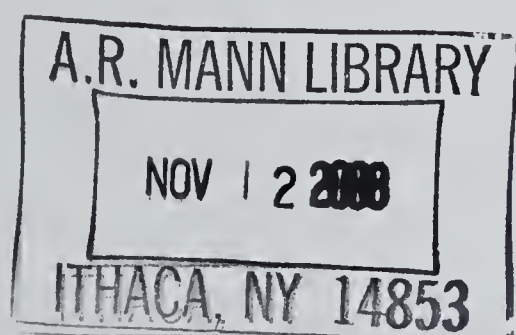
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Edited by Emanuel Levine, Bull's Birds of New York State



8/31/2008 Shorebird Field Trip – North Shore of Lake Erie

Mike Hamilton

Six of us, plus two more off and on, had a very enjoyable time covering the north shore of Lake Erie from Rock Point Provincial Park to Fort Erie on a gorgeous late summer day, which started with north northeast winds shifting to southwest winds in the afternoon. We saw 15 species of shorebirds as follows: Black-bellied Plovers, one flock of 51 on the east side of Hutchinson Rd. plus other fly-over flocks on south side of Poth Rd.; American Golden Plover, 1 on east side of Hutchinson Rd. (Pawlicki and Gordon); Semipalmated Plover, many everywhere; Killdeer, even more at all stops; Greater Yellowlegs, some at Mosaic ponds, some at Cement Plant Rd. pond; Lesser Yellowlegs, many - most at Cement Plant Rd.; Solitary Sandpiper, 1 at Cement Plant Rd. (Pawlicki and Gordon); Spotted Sandpiper, many - most at Rock Point; Ruddy Turnstone, 2 at Rock Point, 1 at Mosaic ponds; Sanderling, 4 at Rock Point and several at east side of Morgan Point; Semipalmated Sandpiper, in dispersed at all locations; Least Sandpiper, in dispersed at all locations; Baird's Sandpiper, 1 at east side of Morgan Point and 2 or 3 at Rock Point; Pectoral Sandpiper, 2 at Rock Point (one had no streaking on the breast, just a buffy wash; Stilt Sandpiper, 1 at east side of Morgan Point and 1 at the pond at Cement Plant Rd.

That evening Ontarian Alfred Adamo posted that he had photographed the strange looking "Pectoral", which he thought might be a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, and he kindly forwarded his photos to us. After much study and conversation amongst the participants plus Willie D'Anna and another trip to Rock Point the following day to try to relocate the bird (unsuccessfully) we concluded that there was not enough evidence to support the Sharp-tail possibility. (Editors Note: An article will follow in the next issue on this possible hybrid) However, on the return trip we had great looks at a basic plumage Willet (below).

Other birds of note were two Bald Eagles (an adult and an immature), an Osprey, a Cooper's Hawk and a Caspian Tern all at the Mosaic ponds. Many thanks to Mosaic Esterhazy Holdings (George Madsen) for allowing us to enter their wonderful and productive properties.



NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Eighth Edition - Revised 2007) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration.

(f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicates nest(s). (yg) Indicates young.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PDDB - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

<u>Species</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Mute Swan	9	2	Chautauqua	Smith
"	19	1	Port Colborne (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
<u>Trumpeter Swan</u>	15	1	Clay Pond WMA	Berry, Miller
Am. Wigeon	2	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
Am. Black Duck	17	1	Gouinlocks Pond, Attica	Dart, Beattie
Blue-winged Teal	2	2	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	19	5	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
Green-winged Teal	27	2	Villanova	Neveu, Smith
Redhead	31	2	Haldimond (Ont)	D'Anna et al
Ring-necked Duck	<u>18</u>	2	Tifft NP	Watson
Lesser Scaup	2	2	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Common Merganser	9	50	Sheridan	Neveu
"	19	1	Morgan's Pt. (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
Red-br. Merganser	19	1	Morgan's Pt. (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
Ruddy Duck	2	84	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Pied-billed Grebe	2	16	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
D.-crested Cormorant	8	830	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	17	160	Wainfleet (Ont)	Watson
"	17	350	Mohawk I. (Ont)	Watson
Great Egret	5	33	Motor I.	Watson
"	15; 19	85; 92	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg; Watson, Pawlicki
"	28	20	Strawberry I.	Yoerg
Black-cr. Night-Heron	2	2	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	7, 16	1, 2	Bethany	Lazarczyk, Dart
Osprey	1	1	Bush Hill SF	Chilton
"	3	1	Mouth of Catt. Creek	Neveu
"	3, 24	3, 1	Allegheny Reservoir	Baird
"	15	2 juv + n	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg
"	19; 31	1; 1	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson et al; Hamilton
Bald Eagle	3	1 ad, 1 juv	Allegheny Reservoir	Baird
"	9	1 ad	Chautauqua	Smith
"	12, 21	7 juv, 4 juv	Sheridan	Neveu
"	14, 21	1 ad, 1 ad	Sheridan	Smith
"	15	1	Ellicott	Berry
"	31	2	Dunnville (Ont)	Hamilton et al
Merlin	29F	1	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg
Peregrine Falcon	26F	1	Point Gratiot	Neveu
Virginia Rail	2	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
Sora	15	1	Kiantone	Berry

<u>Species</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Common Moorhen	9	1	Pomfret	Mosher
Black-bellied Plover	10F; 21,29	10; 50,81	Dunnville (Ont)	D'Anna et al; Yoerg
"	31	7	Fort Erie (Ont)	Pawlicki, Gordon
Amer. Golden-Plover	29F; 31	10; 6	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg; D'Anna et al
Semipalmated Plover	5, 19	7, 10	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
Solitary Sandpiper	19, 23	6, 9	Villanova	Neveu
"	24	1	South Valley	Baird
Willet	25;28;31	1; 2; 1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu; Smith; Mosher
Upland Sandpiper	1, 18	2, 1	Buffalo	Yoerg
"	16	1	Tillman WMA	Salembier
Whimbrel	31F	1	Dunnville (Ont)	D'Anna et al
Ruddy Turnstone	17F	1	Long Beach (Ont)	Watson et al
"	17F; 21	4; 6	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson; Yoerg
"	31	1	Dunnville (Ont)	Hamilton et al
Red Knot	21F	1	Port Colborne (Ont)	Yoerg
Sanderling	7, 11; 10	1, 2; 1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu; Smith
"	17; 21	12; 3	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson; Yoerg
"	22	1	Mouth of Silver Creek	Neveu
"	26	2	Lake Erie SP	Smith
"	31	4	Dunnville (Ont)	Hamilton et al
White-r. Sandpiper	10F; 17; 21	1; 6; 5	Rock Point PP (Ont)	D'Anna; Watson; Yoerg
* Baird's Sandpiper	19F; 29	2; 4	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki; Yoerg
"	21	1	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg
"	30	1	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki
"	31	4	Fort Erie (Ont)	Pawlicki, Gordon
"	31	1	Morgan's Point (Ont)	Hamilton et al
Pectoral Sandpiper	21F	1	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg
"	24	20	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki
"	29; 31	2; 2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg; Hamilton et al
Dunlin	31F	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Pawlicki, Gordon
* Stilt Sandpiper	31F	1	Port Colborne (Ont)	Hamilton et al
"	31F	1	Morgan's Point (Ont)	Hamilton et al
Short-b. Dowitcher	10	3	Haldimond (Ont)	D'Anna et al
Wilson's Snipe	10	7	Villanova	Neveu
* <u>Jaeger species</u>	24	1	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki
Bonaparte's Gull	2	4	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	3	1	Allegheny Reservoir	Baird
Common Tern	9	8	Wilson	D'Anna
"	17; 21	200; 300	Long Beach (Ont)	Watson; Yoerg
"	24	80	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki
Black Tern	24; 30	1; 5	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki, Wheeler; Yoerg
* <u>White-winged Dove</u>	12	1	St. Catharines (Ont)	Roy, Ahara, Chapmans
Common Nighthawk	19F	1	Morgan's Pt. (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	22	3	Egbertsville	D&D Suggs
"	27	3	Tonawanda	Hess
"	27	3	Alexander	Dart
"	27	4	Williamsville	Salembier
"	31	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	D'Anna, Rothman
Red-headed Wdpkr.	9, 11	1 juv, 1 ad	Wilson Cemetery	Potter
"	11, 29	2, 4	Mouth of Silver Creek	Neveu
"	26	4	Fort Niagara SP	Landon
"	31	3 juv, 1 ad	Fort Erie (Ont)	Potter et al
"	31	1	Port Colborne (Ont)	Pawlicki, Gordon
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	19	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Pawlicki, Watson

<u>Species</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	28, 30	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Yellow-b. Flycatcher	19F	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Pawlicki
"	28, 30	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Acadian Flycatcher	3	2	Holland	Salembier
Least Flycatcher	18F	1	Tifft NP	Watson
Philadelphia Vireo	19	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Pawlicki
"	28	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Common Raven	1	2	Bush Hill SF	Chilton
"	2	1	Arkwright	Neveu
"	3	1	Salamanca	Baird
"	3	1	Amity	Yoerg
"	3	2	Andover	Brooks
"	20	1	Bethany	Beattie
Purple Martin	5	30	Bethany	Beattie
"	13	7	Harmony	Berry
Cliff Swallow	5	30 + 89 n	Tonawanda I.	Watson
"	17	8	Busti	Berry
Red-br. Nuthatch	29, 30	1, 3	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
Carolina Wren	4, 17, 30	1	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	9	3	Woodlawn Beach SP	Salembier
"	18	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	19	3	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
"	22	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	28 - 31	1	Williamsville	Salembier
House Wren	2	24	Tifft NP	Salembier
Winter Wren	3	2 ad + 4 yg	Ward	Brooks
"	3	2	Holland	Salembier
Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	19	4	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
Veery	30F	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
Swainson's Thrush	30F	1	Buffalo	Yoerg
Gray Catbird	2	33	Tifft NP	Salembier
Brewster's Warbler	19	1	Morgan's Pt. (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
Tennessee Warbler	19F	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
Nashville Warbler	27F	3	Charlotte	Neveu
Yellow Warbler	2	39	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	19	30	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Pawlicki, Watson
Magnolia Warbler	30	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter, D'Anna
Cape May Warbler	19F	2	Morgan's Pt. (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	28, 29	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	30	2	Pomfret	Mosher
"	31	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	D'Anna et al
Bl.-thr. Blue Warbler	3	3	Holland	Salembier
"	30F	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
Blackburnian Warbler	19F	2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	19F	2	Morgan's Pt. (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
Pine Warbler	3	1	Holland	Salembier
"	15	1	Sheridan	Neveu
Bay-breasted Warbler	24F	1	Porter	Pawlicki
"	28	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Cerulean Warbler	3	1 imm	Allegany SP	Baird
Black-&-White Warb.	30F	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	D'Anna
Ovenbird	30F	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Northern Waterthrush	19F	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Pawlicki
"	24	1	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki
La. Waterthrush	3	1	Holland	Salembier

<u>Species</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	9	1	Chestnut Ridge Pk	Morgante
Wilson's Warbler	24F	2	Four Mile Creek SP	Pawlicki
"	30	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter, D'Anna
Canada Warbler	24F	1	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki
Eastern Towhee	16, 17	1	Williamsville	Salembier
White-thr. Sparrow	17	8	Gouinlocks Pond, Attica	Dart, Beattie
Bobolink	3	5	Busti	Berry
Eastern Meadowlark	13	7	Busti	Berry
Orchard Oriole	2	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
Baltimore Oriole	2	25	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
Red Crossbill	1; 3; 6	6; 5; 2	West Almond	Pawlicki; Yoerg; Lazarczyk
Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded this year:				270
Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for this month:				004
<u>Total for the year 2008:</u>				<u>274</u>

Statisticians' Note I: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision.

Statisticians' Note II: We are asking members of the BOS and any other birders who send in reports to the BOS to advise us as soon as they can of any possible errors in regard to records published in the Prothonotary, particularly in the Noteworthy Records so that we can make any necessary changes as soon as appropriate.

Exotics (see Statisticians' note below)

<u>Spotted Dove</u>	21	1	Amherst	Rising, Levine
"	22	1	Amherst	Lazarczyk, Levine

Statisticians Note Regarding Rare August Dove Sightings:

Mike Morgante and Tim Baird

Determining the provenance of rare, out-of-place doves is challenging. Most doves are strong fliers and several species are well known for their widespread vagrancy in North America.

In early August, Carole Levine identified an unusual dove in her Amherst backyard as a Spotted Dove, *Streptopelia chinensis*. She described the bird and sent photos to Gerry Rising, who later visited the yard (as did Jerry Lazarczyk). Both Rising and Lazarczyk submitted verification reports and the photos from Levine and Lazarczyk clearly indicate the bird's identification as a Spotted Dove. The Spotted Dove is native to southeast Asia and was deliberately introduced to southern California around 1915 (Garrett and Walker 2001). It is considered to be non-migratory and mostly sedentary, as well as declining in its southern California range. There is no pattern of vagrancy outside of its restricted range around Los Angeles. Several birds in Florida and one in Oregon were considered to be escapees rather than wanderers from the California population or elsewhere in the world (Garrett and Walker 2001). Given

the lack of evidence of vagrancy and the high probability of it being an escaped bird from a private collection, the verification reports are accepted as 'exotic species – likely escapee' and Spotted Dove will not be added to the list of avian species documented in the B.O.S. Study Area.

The White-winged Dove found at a backyard feeder in St. Catharines by Paul and Sue Chapman and later observed and documented by Kayo Roy and Brian Ahara is considered to likely be a wild bird because of the well established pattern of vagrancy in this species, especially in the past decade. This sighting represents the second record for B.O.S. and the first for the Ontario portion of the Study Area. The bird was discovered on July 21, 2008; documented by Roy and Ahara on August 12, 2008; and photographed by the Chapmans on September 13, 2008.

References:

Garrett, Kimball L. and Ronald L. Walker. 2001. Spotted Dove (*Streptopelia chinensis*), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/586>

Buffalo Ornithological Society Shorebird Count – August 17, 2008

Lynne Landon and Terry Yonker

The morning of the Shorebird Count dawned (Sunrise: 7:27 AM EDT) with partly cloudy skies along the 50 mile reach of the count on the north shore of Lake Erie. Temperatures ranged from approximately 60 °F at dawn to nearly 75 °F by late morning. Winds averaged 12 MPH from the southwest with occasional gusts to 25 by late morning. The southwest flow preceded a backdoor cold front that was forecasted to pass through the area on the following day.

Participants: Reach 1 – Lynne Landon, Rick Gworek, Terry Yonker; Reach 2 – Michael Hamilton, Doug Happ; Reach 3 – Marcie Jacklin, Tim Seburn; Reach 4 – Jim Rozanski, Liz Wells; Reach 5 – Brian Ahara, Blayne Farnan, Jean Farnan, Kayo Roy; Reach 6 – Mike Galas, Gerry Rising; Reach 7 – Tom O'Donnell; Reach 8 – David Gordon, Holly Sweeney, Bill Watson; Reach 9 & 10 – John Black, Brad Clements, Dan Salisbury.

Note: The Dunlin reported in reach 10 was most likely a Dunlin/White-rumped sandpiper hybrid

Species	Reach 1	Reach 2	Reach 3	Reach 4	Reach 5	Reach 6	Reach 7	Reach 8	Reach 9	Reach 10	Total
Black-bellied Plover	1	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
American Golden Plover	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Piping Plover	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Semipalmated Plover	0	0	0	0	18	7	5	0	0	17	47
Killdeer	6	11	8	1	32	3	27	2	0	11	101
Greater Yellowlegs	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Lesser Yellowlegs	1	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	1	7
Solitary Sandpiper	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Willet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spotted Sandpiper	5	19	10	0	19	1	5	11	0	12	82
Upland Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whimbrel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marbled Godwit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Turnstone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	6	7
Red Knot	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Sanderling	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	13	17
Semipalmated Sandpiper	0	1	1	4	55	16	5	11	0	74	167
Western Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Least Sandpiper	1	6	9	2	26	0	15	14	0	20	93
White-rumped Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	9	10
Baird's Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
Pectoral Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Purple Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dunlin	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1*	1*
Stilt Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Short-billed Dowitcher	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Long-billed Dowitcher	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Common Snipe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
American Woodcock	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wilson's Phalarope	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red-necked Phalarope	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red Phalarope	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unidentified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	16	45	28	8	155	36	58	39	0	167	552

Seven Year Summary of BOS Shorebird Counts

Species	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Black-bellied Plover	30	58	12	10	1	6	4	9
American Golden Plover	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Piping Plover	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Semipalmated Plover	51	80	116	118	79	127	68	47
Killdeer	264	132	265	139	156	44	367	101
Greater Yellowlegs	28	23	44	2	7	3	11	2
Lesser Yellowlegs	336	204	98	12	95	10	122	7
Solitary Sandpiper	6	3	2	1	2	3	5	1
Willet	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spotted Sandpiper	170	115	140	67	103	116	104	82
Upland Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whimbrel	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
Marbled Godwit	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Ruddy Turnstone	3	20	14	3	9	3	0	7
Red Knot	3	1	0	1	3	1	0	1
Sanderling	15	73	25	7	29	86	10	17
Semipalmated Sandpiper	215	322	527	229	490	338	89	167
Western Sandpiper	0	0	2	4	1	0	0	0
Least Sandpiper	294	339	257	173	420	308	394	93
White-rumped Sandpiper	3	6	10	0	0	1	0	10
Baird's Sandpiper	3	11	0	11	13	4	2	2
Pectoral Sandpiper	47	63	15	4	49	15	1	2
Purple Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dunlin	0	4	0	2	0	0	6	1*
Stilt Sandpiper	0	2	1	0	4	0	0	1
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Short-billed Dowitcher	8	22	29	0	38	12	3	2
Long-billed Dowitcher	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Common Snipe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
American Woodcock	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wilson's Phalarope	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red-necked Phalarope	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Red Phalarope	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unidentified	18	9	9	5	0	12	10	0
Total	1500	1491	1569	788	1537	1090	1197	552

Buffalo Ornithological Society
Buffalo Museum of Science
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November – December Calendar

BOS website
<http://www.bosbirding.org/>



Buffalo-Niagara Region
Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

- Nov. 12: BOS Meeting** at 7:00 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Terry Yonker will discuss the proposed Niagara River Corridor Bird Observatory.
- Nov. 16: Sunday. Niagara River Trip** with Rochester Birding Association, for gulls and waterfowl. Meet at 9:00 AM at Fort Niagara State Park in the parking lot just outside the old fort. Bring at least two forms of ID including photo ID and proof of citizenship, such as birth certificate, passport, or voter registration card. Non-citizens should bring passports. Dress warmly. Leaders: BOS Mike Hamilton (881-6709 or mhsr@wzrd.com) and RBA Bob Spahn (585-671-5690 or RSPAHN@prodigy.net).
- Dec. 10: BOS Annual Holiday Celebration** at 7:30 PM in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Science Museum. Please bring a treat to share. Business meeting. Mike Galas will discuss the one call system rare bird alert.
- Dec. 14: Sunday. St. Catharines CBC.** Compiler: Marcie Jacklin (mjacklin@brocku.ca or 905-871-2577).
- Dec. 20: Saturday. Wilson-Lake Plains CBC.** Compiler: Garner Light (772-5110 or garnerlight@hotmail.com).
- Dec. 20: Saturday. Beaver Meadow CBC.** Compiler: Paul Fehringer (585-457-3228; fehringer@buffaloaudubon.org).
- Dec. 21: Sunday. BOS Buffalo, NY Christmas Count.** Compiler: Bill Bogacki (435-4426).
- Dec. 27: Saturday. Oak Orchard CBC.** Compiler: Gail Seamans (585-902-3134 or gails@rochester.rr.com).
- Dec. 27: Saturday. Niagara Falls ON-NY CBC.** Contact Willie D'Anna (751-3637 or dannapotter@roadrunner.com) to work on the NY side. Contact Kayo Roy (905-892-4433 or kayoroy@niagara.com) to work on the Canadian side. All payments and data go to the compiler, Kayo Roy, 13 Kinsman Court, Fonthill, Ontario, Canada L0S 1E3.
- Dec. 28: Sunday. Hamburg - East Aurora CBC.** Compiler: Tom O'Donnell (284-5560 or tmodonnell@roadrunner.com)

The PROTHONOTARY



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THE MONTH: September

Tim Baird

If you are interested in birds, what's not to like about September? Weather is accommodating for being outside, and the birds have lessened their guard of privacy with the end of nesting and molting. Throw in the mix of fall migration and it's a fun time for bird watching.

There was not much weather excitement for September 2008. McLaughlin in the National Weather Service's September summary stated, "The month averaged a bit warm with near normal rainfall and sunshine." This month continued the trend of recent Septembers having above average temperatures with the 64.2 °F being 2.7 °F above normal. Precipitation was only 0.12 inches above the normal 3.84 inches.

The one blast of extreme weather occurred when the remains of Hurricane Ike visited western New York in the middle of the month. Typically, strong tropical lows lose their bite by the time they meander into our region, but Ike took a nip at us when he passed by. The day of September 14th was summery with highs in the mid to upper 80's, but the night brought 50-60 mph winds, downed trees and limbs, and power outages in many areas. Any migrants attempting to head south on the night of September 14th-15th were thwarted by the consistently strong south winds and were forced to wait out the system (if they didn't inadvertently sail north).

The noteworthy records indicate that Ike disappointed any birders anticipating rarities as the storm apparently did not escort any tropical maritime or other southern species into the region. Still, tropical species are always an active September contribution to our birdlife. Many passerines of

Species that summer to our north visit briefly and bring birding excitement.

Most warbler reports were from the latter half of the month. The boreal species including Cape May, Palm, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, and Wilson's Warblers are well represented in the records. Pawlicki's 18 Palm Warblers in Amherst on the 29 indicates an active movement. Cape May Warblers were well represented in the reports received, and my observations in the southern tier suggest a recent increase in this species following several years of scarcity. Perhaps this suggests an increase in the spruce budworm that is an important summer food for the Cape May Warbler. When visiting our region in the autumn, the Cape May Warbler displays its fondness for the fruit of wild black cherry trees where it can be found piercing the cherries and sipping the juice.

The nights of September 15th and 28th saw good thrush flights over Tonawanda as evidenced by Hess' flyover counts for Veery, Gray-cheeked Thrush, and Swainson's Thrush based on nocturnal counts. The flight on the night of the 15th might have been a release of birds held up by the



Whimbrel photographed by Doug Beattie at Batavia WWTP on September 22, 2008.

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tropical origin are heading to their southern homes after a brief stay in temperate climes. Their semi-annual passage is at a high tide this month.

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24th at Iroquois NWR. Watson speculates in his verification report that these separate observations might represent the same bird. Watson's determined field work and skill at locating rare birds was demonstrated on September 5th when he encountered three Glossy Ibis at Tiff NP. His verification included observation of the long and distinctly decurved bill and, based on field marks, a nicely detailed separation from the similar White-faced Ibis.

Keeping with verification of required species, Salembier submitted reports for two species, Black Vulture and Clay-colored Sparrow. The vulture was observed in Williams-ville on September 13th. In his description, Salembier provided details separating the Black Vulture from a Turkey Vulture or Bald Eagle, relating in particular the flight pattern, shape, and plumage characteristics. The Clay-colored Sparrow Salembier found on September 25th, once again in Williams-ville, was nicely detailed and distinguished from the very similarly appearing Chipping Sparrow. Salembier speculated that the sparrow was likely an immature based on the brownish streaking on the back, unlike the black streaks typical of an adult. He also noted the "overall

strong south winds on the night of the 14th. The 204 Purple Martins in Ripley on September 7th reported by Pawlicki is an impressive flight for this species bound for South America. Reports for the Common Night-hawk were encouraging, particularly those seen on the 13th in Williams-ville by Salembier and the 20th in Buffalo by Morgante. A late Eastern Kingbird was verified in Busti by Berry. Berry's brief observation emphasizes how a distinct field mark is important to identification, in this case, the white terminal band on the bird's tail and the overall size of the bird. Roy and the Chapmans reported the White-winged Dove noted in the last issue of *The Prothonotary* was still in St. Catharines, Ontario through the 26th of the month.

Watson observed an earlier than usual Snow Goose on September 10th at Oak Orchard WMA and saw another on the

brown and buff-colored plumage" lending support for his speculation of a first fall bird.

Batavia WWTP as usual hosted several noteworthy waterfowl species. Eared Grebes are regular visitors, as are large numbers of ducks. In the latter category, Watson's report of 107 Northern Shovelers and 135 Ruddy Ducks on the 20th of the month attests to this location's attraction to waterfowl. Great Egrets are continuing their increase in our area, but this is still a species to get excited about when it occurs in the interior southern tier. Well over 100 of this species noted by Watson at the Tonawanda WMA this month is a very impressive assemblage.

September reports for Ruby-throated Hummingbird are not surprising. Six observers sending in reports noted hummingbirds. Five of seven observations of the birds reported occurred after mid-month as late as the 26th on Grand Island (Lazarczyk) and at Wilson (Potter). Beardslee and Mitchell (1965), and Eaton (1981) both noted that hummingbirds were most common before the middle of September. There may be a reporting bias involved, but are we experiencing a tendency for hummingbirds to linger in our area? The favored plant species supplying nectar to hummingbirds are mostly finished blossoming by mid-month. Is the popularity of hummingbird feeders influencing some number of this species to delay leaving the area?

Birds of prey reports were limited, including a notable lack of any reports of accipiter species. A late Broad-winged Hawk at Batavia WWTP on September 28th seen by David and Debbie Suggs was noted by them as a possible first reported observation of this species for the location. The records show Ontario and the Batavia WWTP were hot spots for shorebirds this month. The year's first Buff-breasted Sandpiper was observed by Roy at Niagara-on-the-Lake on the 11th. Beaver Island SP hosted the year's first Red-necked Phalarope observed by Sharon on September 5th. Sharon reported 32 Caspian Terns at Beaver Island SP on the 12th, and the only report for Black Tern was a single bird seen by Pawlicki and Watson in Buffalo on the 6th. These two tern species are experiencing significantly different changes in their populations.

September is truly a transition month in many senses of the word. A season is closing, and our birdlife changes behavior and composition. As I said earlier, it's a great time for those of us afflicted with 'bird fever'. Thanks to all the reporters who make the effort to supply their observations for *The Prothonotary* and the BOS records.

I acknowledge and appreciate the suggestions made by Gerry Rising and Mike Morgante in making this article a better read.

Beardslee, C.S. and H.D. Mitchell 1965. Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region. *Bull. of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences* 22. 1-478.

Eaton, S.W. 1981. Birds of Cattaraugus County New York. *Bull. of the Buffalo Society of Natural Scientists* 29. 1-91.

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NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Eighth Edition - Revised 2007) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration.

(f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicates nest(s). (yg) Indicates young.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Snow Goose	<u>10F</u>	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
"	<u>20</u>	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Northern Shoveler	6F	7	Mouth of Silver Creek	Neveu
"	10, 20	62, 107	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	24	5	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Northern Pintail	20	23	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Ring-necked Duck	4F	3	Tifft NP	Neveu
"	10	6	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Greater Scaup	28F	3	Port Weller (Ont)	Yoerg
Scaup species	29	4	Wilson	D'Anna
Surf Scoter	28F	2	Port Weller (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
White-winged Scoter	28F	3	Port Weller (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Common Merganser	5, 9	7	Sheridan	Neveu
"	10	81	Mouth of Silver Creek	Neveu
"	10, 20	2, 4	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Red-br. Merganser	19	2	Silver Creek	Lazarczyk
Ruddy Duck	10, 20	98, 135	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Common Loon	29F	5	Wilson	D'Anna
Pied-billed Grebe	4, 20	22, 22	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Eared Grebe	10,20;29	2, 2; 2	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Zebehazys et al
D.-crested Cormorant	9	790	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
American Bittern	22	1	Batavia WWTP	Dart, Beattie
Great Egret	4, 19	139, 124	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	4 - 28	1 - 12	Beaver I. SP	Hess
"	5, 14	9, 6	Tifft NP	Watson
"	8	47	Strawberry I.	Watson
Black-cr. Night-Heron	4; 19	1; 1	Tonawanda WMA	Watson, Pawlicki
"	9	2	Alexander	Beattie et al
"	10	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	22	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
* <u>Glossy Ibis</u>	5	3	Tifft NP	Watson
<u>Black Vulture</u>	13	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Osprey	5 - 24	2 max	6 locations	Various observers
Bald Eagle	2 - 22	1 - 2 imm	Sheridan	Neveu
"	12	2 ad	Dayton	Neveu
"	20	1 ad	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	20	1 imm	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
"	21	1 ad	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg
"	28	4	Ripley to Sheridan	Pawlicki

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Red-shouldered Hawk	1-30	2	Orchard Park	Morgante
"	20	2	Arkwright	Neveu
"	26	2	Batavia WWTP	Zebehazys
"	27	1	Busti	Berry
Broad-winged Hawk	1	2	Orchard Park	Morgante
"	28L	1	Batavia WWTP	D&D Suggs
Merlin	13	1	Salamanca	Baird
"	14	1	Allegany SP	Baird
Peregrine Falcon	3	1 imm	UB south campus	Yoerg
"	6	1	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg, Reinink
"	9, 30	1, 2	N. Grand I. bridge	Landon
"	10	2	S. Grand I. bridge	Yonker
"	15	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Watson
"	29	1 ad	Orchard Park	Zebehazys
Black-bellied Plover	6, 21	67, 25	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg
"	10; 20	1; 1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	19, 28	1, 1	Dunkirk Harbor	Lazarczyk, Pawlicki
"	28	7	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
"	30	2	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Amer. Golden-Plover	6; 7	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Moshers, Gula; Pawlicki
"	7, 15; 21	2, 7; 7	Dunnville (Ont)	D'Anna et al; Yoerg
"	8	3	Porter	D'Anna, Potter
"	10	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	11	22	Niag.-on-the-Lake(Ont)	Roy
"	22, 24	16, 36	Pembroke	Watson
Greater Yellowlegs	6	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Lazarczyk, Smith
"	29	2	Batavia WWTP	Zebehazys
Lesser Yellowlegs	10	8	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Solitary Sandpiper	4	1	Tonawanda WMA	Watson, Pawlicki
"	6, 12	3, 1	Villanova	Neveu
"	21	2	Wainfleet (Ont)	Yoerg
Willet	6	1	Wainfleet (Ont)	Farnan, Roy et al
Whimbrel	6	1	Times Beach NP	Lazarczyk, Wheeler
"	11	1 juv	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg
"	17; 22L	2	Batavia WWTP	Zebehazys; Dart, Beattie
Ruddy Turnstone	6	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Lazarczyk, Smith
"	6	2	Wainfleet (Ont)	Yoerg
"	10; 17	2; 2	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Zebehazys
"	15	4	Dunnville (Ont)	D'Anna
Sanderling	5	5	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	7; 19	20; 7	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki; Neveu
"	15	8	Woodlawn Beach SP	Watson
"	15	27	Rock Point PP (Ont)	D'Anna
White-r. Sandpiper	6	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Moshers, Gula
"	7	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	D'Anna et al
"	11	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
"	11	1	Sheridan	Neveu
Baird's Sandpiper	7	3	Rock Point PP (Ont)	D'Anna et al
"	7	2	Jaeger Rocks (Ont)	D'Anna et al
"	11	2	Port Colborne (Ont)	Roy
"	11; 15	4; 3	Wainfleet (Ont)	Roy, Yoerg; D'Anna
Pectoral Sandpiper	6, 11, 21	5, 1, 4	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg
"	19	2	Sherman	Neveu
Dunlin	6	1	Long Beach CA (Ont)	Yoerg

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	29	2	Batavia WWTP	Zebehazys
* Buff-br. Sandpiper	11	1	Niag.-on-the-Lake (Ont)	Roy
"	15	1	Dunnville (Ont)	D'Anna
American Woodcock	11	1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	13	1	Westfield	Pawlicki
* Red-neck. Phalarope	5F	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Little Gull	28F	1 (2 nd yr)	Port Weller (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Lesser Black-b. Gull	7F	1	Port Colborne (Ont)	D'Anna, Potter
Caspian Tern	12; 18	32; 4	Beaver I. SP	Sharon; Hess
"	22	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Black Tern	6	1	Buffalo	Pawlicki, Watson
<u>White-winged Dove</u>	1 - 26	1	St. Catharines (Ont)	Chapmans, Roy
Black-billed Cuckoo	4, 13L	1, 1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	11	1	Elma	Morgante
Common Nighthawk	1	1	Elma	Morgante
"	13, 27	16, 3	Williamsville	Salembier
"	20	10	Buffalo	Morgante
"	25	3	Egbertsville	Deb. Suggs
"	25	4	Amherst SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
Whip-poor-will	6	3	Wainfleet (Ont)	Yoerg
Ruby-t. Hummingbird	26	1	Grand I.	Lazarczyk
"	26	1	Wilson	Potter
Red-headed Wdpkr.	11	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
"	21	1	Orchard Park	Morgante
Eastern Wood-Pewee	27	1	Tonawanda	Pawlicki
"	28 - 30	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Yellow-b. Flycatcher	5	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	13	1	Westfield	Pawlicki
"	13	1	Sheridan	Neveu
"	30L	1 dead	Lakewood	Berry
"	30L	1	Goat I.	Roberson
Least Flycatcher	1	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	7	3	Rock Point PP (Ont)	D'Anna et al
Gr. Cr. Flycatcher	13L	2	Ripley, Westfield	Pawlicki
Eastern Kingbird	14	1	Goat I.	Roberson
"	<u>27L</u>	1	Busti	Berry
Warbling Vireo	28L	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Philadelphia Vireo	13	6	Ripley, Westfield	Pawlicki
"	28	1	Port Weller (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	29	2	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	1-28	1 max	8 other reports	various observers
Red-eyed Vireo	6	25	Tifft NP	Pawlicki et al
"	28	6	Amherst SP	Salembier
Blue-headed Vireo	16F	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	17	1	Goat I.	Pawlicki, Watson
Common Raven	14	1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	27	2	Arkwright	Neveu
Purple Martin	7	204	Ripley	Pawlicki
"	13	9	Williamsville	Salembier
Cliff Swallow	6	2	Buffalo	Watson
"	7L	1	Wainfleet (Ont)	D'Anna et al
Brown Creeper	16F	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	22	1	Goat I.	D'Anna, Potter
Carolina Wren	1 - 6	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	12,21,30	2, 2, 2	Bethany	Beattie

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	22	1	Salamanca	Baird
Winter Wren	1F	1	Amherst SP	Yoerg
"	12	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Marsh Wren	14	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	22	1	Batavia WWTP	Dart, Beattie
Golden-cr. Kinglet	22F	14	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	24	1	Buffalo	Yoerg
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	19F	2	Amherst	Pawlicki
"	22	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	4	1	Beaver I. SP	Hess
Veery	15, 28L	19, 11	Tonawanda (night)	Hess
"	28L	1	Westfield	Pawlicki
Gray-cheeked Thrush	15, 28	2, 5	Tonawanda (night)	Hess
"	18; 21	1; 2	Amherst	Salembier; Pawlicki
"	22	2	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	28	1	Port Weller (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	30	1	Buffalo (night)	Yoerg
Swainson's Thrush	15, 28	62, 37	Tonawanda (night)	Hess
"	22	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	30	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Hermit Thrush	28F	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	29	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
Wood Thrush	15, 28	1, 1	Tonawanda (night)	Hess
"	28	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Gray Catbird	28	19	Amherst SP	Salembier
Brown Thrasher	25	2	Amherst	Pawlicki
"	26-30	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
American Pipit	13F	1	Mouth of Catt. Creek	Neveu
"	19	2	Silver Creek	Lazarczyk
"	20	1	Villanova	Neveu
Blue-winged Warbler	13	1	Sheridan	Neveu
"	15L	1	Bethany	Beattie
Tennessee Warbler	26	1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	26 - 30	2	Amherst SP	Salembier
Orange-cr. Warbler	22F	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	26,28-30	1, 1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Nashville Warbler	29	7	Amherst SP	Salembier
Northern Parula	7F	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	D'Anna et al
"	28-30	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	28	1	Tonawanda	Watson, Pawlicki
Yellow Warbler	12	1	Charlotte	Neveu
"	19L	1	Amherst	Pawlicki
Chestnut-s. Warbler	6	5	Tifft NP	Watson
"	29	6	Amherst SP	Salembier
Magnolia Warbler	28	8	Amherst SP	Salembier
Cape May Warbler	2, 17	1, 2	Allegany SP	Baird
"	8	3	Goat I.	D'Anna, Potter
"	21	1	Amherst	Pawlicki
"	29	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Yellow-r. Warbler	4F; 8	1; 8	Goat I.	Roberson; D'Anna, Potter
"	20	15	Fort Niagara SP	Landon, Yonker
Bl.-thr. Green Warb.	7F, 10	1, 3	Goat I.	Roberson, Welte
"	28	1	Tonawanda	Watson
"	28	11	Amherst SP	Salembier

Blackburnian Warbler	26 - 30	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Pine Warbler	20F, 22	2, 1	Goat I.	Roberson, D'Anna, Potter
"	28	1	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna, Broderick (BOS)
Palm Warbler	17F	1	Goat I.	Watson
"	19	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	29	18	Amherst	Pawlicki
Bay-breasted Warbler	28	1	Port Weller (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	28	4	Amherst SP	Salembier
Blackpoll Warbler	6F	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg
"	8	5	Goat I.	D'Anna, Potter
"	27, 29	3, 2	Amherst SP	Salembier
Ovenbird	13	1	Ripley	Pawlicki
Northern Waterthrush	7	1	Westfield	Pawlicki
"	29	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Mourning Warbler	17L	1	Beaver I. SP	Watson
Hooded Warbler	28L	1	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna et al
Wilson's Warbler	23	1	Salamanca	Baird
"	28	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Canada Warbler	17	1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	17	1	Beaver I. SP	Watson, Pawlicki
Scarlet Tanager	28	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
"	28	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	D'Anna, Broderick (BOS)
"	29	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
<u>Clay-col. Sparrow</u>	25	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Savannah Sparrow	21	14	Amherst	Pawlicki
Lincoln's Sparrow	25F; 29	4; 4	Amherst	Pawlicki
"	26	1	Pomfret	Mosher
"	26	1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	28	2	Tonawanda	Pawlicki, Watson
"	28	2	Amherst SP	Salembier
White-thr. Sparrow	12F	5	Bethany	Beattie
"	22F	1	Goat I.	Roberson
White-cr. Sparrow	28F	1	Joseph Davis SP	D'Anna, Broderick (BOS)
"	29	4	Amherst	Pawlicki
Dark-eyed Junco	22F	1	Buffalo	Yoerg
"	25	1	Wilson	Potter
Rose-br. Grosbeak	28, 29	3, 2	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	29	1	Amherst	Pawlicki
Bobolink	10	2	Lancaster	Morgante
"	29L	1	Amherst	Pawlicki
Baltimore Oriole	4L	1	Goat I.	Roberson
"	4L	1	Tifft NP	Neveu
Purple Finch	19	1	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki
"	21	1	Williamsville	Salembier

Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded this year: 274

Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for this month: 003

Total for the year 2008: 277

Statisticians' Note I: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision.

Statisticians' Note II: We are asking members of the BOS and any other birders who send in reports to the BOS to advise us as soon as they can of any possible errors in regard to records published in the Prothonotary, particularly in the Noteworthy Records so that we can make any necessary changes as soon as appropriate.

An Apparent White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*) x Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) Hybrid at Rock Point Provincial Park, Ontario

James Pawlicki

Background: On August 19, 2008, Bill Watson and I traveled to Rock Point Provincial Park on the north Lake Erie shore in Dunnville, Haldimand County, Ontario to follow-up on a mystery *Calidris* sandpiper first identified as such by Watson, David Gordon, and Holly Sweeney two days earlier on August 17. Arriving on the rocky beach, we eventually found the sandpiper (see Fig. 1) on the shoreline amongst several Sanderlings, Semipalmated, Least, and White-rumped Sandpipers. Upon seeing the bird, its relatively short legs, plump body, short neck, and fairly long, drooped bill resembled a Dunlin, with the plumage appearing to be that of a juvenile, having dark-centered, pale-edged feathers on the upperparts and a weak breast-band of streaks continuing down the flanks (see Fig. 2 of Dunlin for comparison). According to the field guides, unusual about the bird's plumage was the obvious lack of a black speckling on the lower belly, illustrated as being present in the North American races of juvenile Dunlin (Sibley, 2000; O'Brien, 2006). As the bird flew around, it allowed us to accurately assess its size as slightly larger than the nearby White-rumped Sandpipers while also showing a dark center to the uppertail coverts. Considering its structural and plumage characteristics we tentatively identified the bird as a juvenile Dunlin despite the lack of black markings on the belly, speculating that the bird had already molted its belly feathers into basic (non-breeding) plumage. Additionally, there were two other unusual aspects surrounding the sighting: the extent of the apparent juvenile plumage and the calendar date. Dunlin in full juvenile plumage are extremely rare south of their arctic breeding grounds with nearly all individuals actively molting and replacing some of their juvenile scapulars with gray basic scapulars before migrating south (O'Brien, 2006). All of the scapular feathers on this individual appeared uniform, having blackish-centers with pale rufous edges, and without any indication of molt. The seasonal occurrence was also unusual because Dunlin, unlike most other southbound shorebirds found in the Niagara Frontier region, are predominantly late season migrants with the majority occurring between the middle of September and middle of October. Given the significance of the sighting, photos were placed on the internet and requests were made to several shorebird experts including those on the Frontiers of (Bird) Identification list (www.birdingonthe.net/maillinglists/FRID.html). The most detailed responses were received from Kevin McLaughlin of Hamilton, Ontario and Kevin Karlson of Cape May, New Jersey, co-author of *The Shorebird Guide*. Both noted that the bird was not in juvenile plumage, but rather in adult-alternate (breeding) or first-alternate plumage due to the presence of worn and dull brownish wing (greater,

median, and lesser) coverts retained from its basic plumage held the previous winter (see Fig. 1). This means that the bird must have acquired these wing coverts the previous fall making it at least one year old and not a juvenile born this past summer. Since both adult-alternate and first-alternate shorebirds can retain basic wing coverts and tertials into late summer, it was not possible to age the bird precisely. Therefore, much of the plumage, including the dark-centered, pale-edged scapulars, was in fact alternate feathers that it sported this past spring and summer. Because of this, it was immediately suspected to be a hybrid as its combination of features did not appear to be within the known variation of any species of shorebird. Over this time period, the bird extended its stay at Rock Point Provincial Park until at least August 23 when it was last observed and well photographed by Tom Thomas of Hamilton, Ontario. Summarized below is a description of the bird with an emphasis on the characteristics suggesting a probable hybrid between White-rumped Sandpiper and Dunlin.

Size: The size was similar to that of a Dunlin, being just noticeably larger than the White-rumped Sandpipers, and slightly smaller and less chunky than the Sanderlings.

Body Structure: Overall the body structure was rather short-necked and full-chested, giving it a plump appearance that was very Dunlin-like. Much of the time the rear end appeared rather attenuated due to the long primary projection, more than is typical for Dunlin and suggesting the influence of a long-winged "peep" such as White-rumped or Baird's Sandpiper.

Bill: The bill was all black and fairly long with a slight droop at the tip. It appeared noticeably longer than any White-rumped Sandpiper, and slightly shorter than is typical for a Dunlin although within the range of variation for the species.

Legs and Feet: The legs were black and of typical length for a medium-sized *Calidris* sandpiper being fairly short and not extending past the tail tip when in flight. The black legs rule out possible influence from pale-legged *Calidris* species such as Pectoral and Sharp-tailed Sandpipers. The feet also appeared black and lacked any semipalmations.

Plumage: The head was patterned with fine black streaks that were rusty-based on the auriculars and crown, setting off a prominent whitish-based supercilium that extended to the nape. The underparts were white-based with a weak band of blackish and rather thick arrow-like markings across the breast, which then continued as longer, pencil thin streaks down to the rear flanks. As previously stated, the individual feathers on the upperparts, including the mantle and scapulars, contained blackish centers with fairly broad rusty-brown edges. All of the wing coverts, tertials, and a few of the lower scapulars were brownish with slightly paler and faded edges, indicating worn basic feathers retained from the past winter. In flight, the bird showed an obvious dark center to the uppertail and rump, and a white wingstripe comparable to that of both Dunlin and White-rumped Sandpiper. The obvious lack of a black belly

patch clearly eliminates all subspecies of Dunlin in alternate plumage, while the bird's larger size and lack of rusty centers to the mantle and scapulars rule out Western Sandpiper. Additionally, Baird's Sandpiper influence can be eliminated based on the whitish-based breast and flank streaking.

Conclusion: Although hybrid shorebirds are extremely rare, several presumed hybrids have been documented over the last ten years, especially between members of the genus *Calidris* (O'Brien, 2006). Small numbers of these hybrids have been between White-rumped Sandpiper and Dunlin (McLaughlin & Wormington, 2000) with the majority of these individuals occurring on the east coast of North America (Wilson, 2005; Bonomo, 2008). It also interesting to note that nearly all of the apparent White-rumped Sandpiper x Dunlin hybrids seem to show a combination of a Dunlin-like size and structure, dark or reduced dark markings on the uppertail coverts, and dominant White-rumped Sandpiper plumage traits.

Acknowledgements: I would like to thank Kevin Karlson and Kevin McLaughlin for their comments on the identification, along with Willie D'Anna, Mike Morgante, Ron Pittaway, and Bill Watson for their comments and support of the article.

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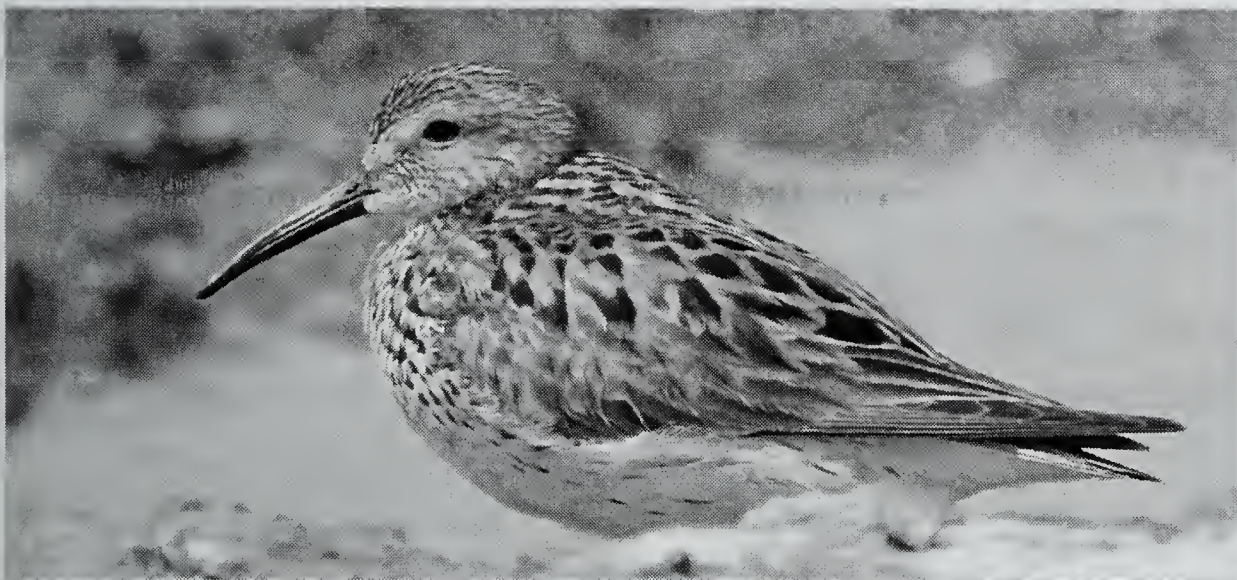


Figure 1: Apparent adult-alternate/first-alternate White-rumped Sandpiper x Dunlin. Visible are the heavily worn brownish wing coverts and tertials contrasting with the black-centered, rufous-edged mantle and scapulars. Not visible here are the black legs and feet. Rock Point Provincial Park, Haldimand County, Ontario, 23 August 2008. Photo by Tom Thomas.



Figure 2: A juvenile Dunlin in first pre-basic molt for comparison. Note the brightly-edged wing coverts, tertials, and primaries, indicating a juvenile, as well as the first-basic gray scapulars amongst the brightly-edged juvenile scapulars. Also notable is the lack of extensive black speckling on the lower belly, much of which has already been molted into basic plumage by mid-September. Ontario Beach Park, Monroe Co., NY 20 September 2008. Photo by Jim Pawlicki

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A detailed black and white illustration of a House Wren perched on a cylindrical object. The bird has a dark throat, a white breast with dark spots, and a back with a mix of dark and light feathers. It is facing left.

December – January Calendar

BOS website
<http://www.bosbirding.org/>



Buffalo-Niagara Region
Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

- Dec. 10: BOS Annual Holiday Celebration** at 7:30 PM in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Science Museum. Please bring a treat to share. Business meeting. Mike Galas will discuss the one call system rare bird alert.
- Dec. 14: Sunday. St. Catharines CBC.** Compiler: Marcie Jacklin (mjacklin@brocku.ca or 905-871-2577).
- Dec. 20: Saturday. Wilson-Lake Plains CBC.** Compiler: Garner Light (772-5110 or garnerlight@hotmail.com).
- Dec. 20: Saturday. Beaver Meadow CBC.** Compiler: Paul Fehringer (585-457-3228; fehringer@buffaloaudubon.org).
- Dec. 21: Sunday. BOS Buffalo, NY Christmas Count.** Compiler: Bill Bogacki (435-4426).
- Dec. 27: Saturday. Oak Orchard CBC.** Compiler: Gail Seamans (585-902-3134 or gails@rochester.rr.com).
- Dec. 27: Saturday. Niagara Falls ON-NY CBC.** Contact Willie D'Anna (751-3637 or dannapotter@roadrunner.com) to work on the NY side. Contact Kayo Roy (905-892-4433 or kayoroy@niagara.com) to work on the Canadian side. All payments and data go to the compiler, Kayo Roy, 13 Kinsman Court, Fonthill, Ontario, Canada L0S 1E3.
- Dec. 28: Sunday. Hamburg - East Aurora CBC.** Compiler: Tom O'Donnell (284-5569 or tmodonnell@roadrunner.com)
- Jan. 14: BOS Meeting** at 7:30 PM in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Science Museum.

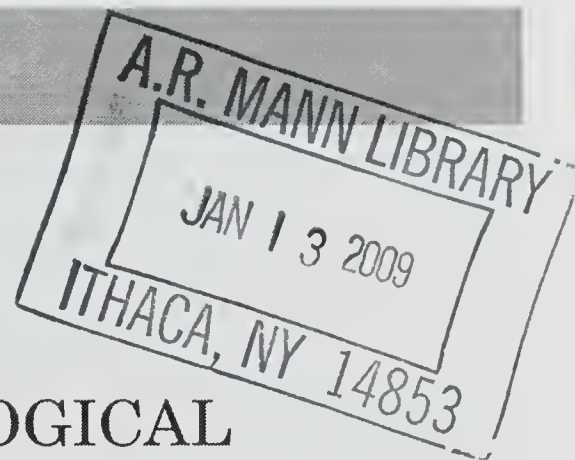
The PROTHONOTARY



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THE MONTH: October

William Watson

The Weather: The month's mean average temperature was 49.7 °F (1.0 °F below normal) while the total precipitation was 4.13 inches (0.94 inches above normal) most of which fell on the 16th and 25th. The hottest (and most pleasant) day was the Annual B.O.S. October Bird Count on the 12th when the temperature reached 76 °F. The coldest days were the 19th and 30th, when the temperature dropped to 32 °F. We received a possible 53% sunshine, only three points above normal. (Note: The normal period is from 1971 to 2000.) The strongest winds were 49 mph from the west-southwest on the 26th. Strong winds from the west or southwest can concentrate gulls, waterfowl, and other waterbirds near the source of the Niagara River – perhaps responsible for the 1500 Double-crested Cormorants and one Sabine's Gull on the 27th, as well as the Red Phalarope on the 28th. Most of the month was pleasantly mild and bright, but there was a brief preview of winter weather during the final week when temperatures dropped and we received a 0.1-inch of snow on the 29th.

Early Arrivals: On October 4th while lakewatching on Lake Ontario in the Town of Wilson at 10:00 AM, Willie D'Anna observed a Cackling Goose of the expected nominate subspecies, *Branta h. hutchinsii*. At 2:00 PM on the same day yours truly documented two more Cackling Geese at Ring-neck Marsh within the Iroquois NWR. These two records and September, 2007 records of two at Clarence on the 16th by Pawlicki and one at Iroquois NWR by D'Anna and Potter on the 30th are the earliest contemporary fall records of Cackling Goose in the B.O.S study area. There is a early record from the 1930s, "On October

3, 1937, a small Canada Goose was seen on the Lake Erie shore at Rockhouse Point, Ontario (Mitchell, Moore) with a flock of the larger race at a distance of about 100 yards." This 1937

sighting was listed in the October 1937 *Prothonotary* as a Hutchin's Goose (Richardson's Goose) under the section summarizing the October 3rd Fall Duck Census. Since more observers are now looking for Cackling Goose since their 2004 split from Canada Goose, we should expect more early and late spring and fall records in the future.

Observing on the morning of the 4th at Wilson, Willie D'Anna counted 47 Common Loons. Between 9:00 and 11:00 AM he also observed two extremely early Red-throated Loons. Because Red-throated Loon may retain



Curlew Sandpiper (top-left) photographed by Willie D'Anna at Jaeger Rocks, Ontario on Oct. 11, 2008. Sabine's Gull (top-right) and Red Phalarope (bottom) photographed by Jim Pawlicki at Squaw Island (Niagara River) and Bird Island Pier on Oct. 28 and 29 respectively.

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their summer plumage this early in October they cannot be easily recognized from Common Loons by their paler head and neck. To identify these Red-throated Loons he looks for: (1) their smaller size compared to Common Loons (2) the diagnostic raising and lowering of the head in flight (3) the smaller feet behind the tail compared to the Common Loon and (4) their relatively thin necks and small heads. October 4th is the earliest ever fall record of this species. In 1945 at Beaver Island State Park, Arthur Schaffner also had this species on the same early date. The next earliest records are on BOS October 8th bird counts with one in 2000 and seven in 2006.

Late Departures:

The Palm Warbler subspecies *Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea*, commonly referred to as Yellow or Eastern Palm Warbler, is rarely seen in the B. O. S. study area.

We only have five previ-

ous fall records: one on September 28, 1937, at Forest Lawn by Mitchell; one October 23, 1938, at Tiffit Street by Mitchell and Moore; one on October 20, 1997, at Alfred banded by Brooks; five on October 15, 2001, at Goat Island by Roberson; and one on October 24, 2007, at Amherst S. P. by Salembier and Pawlicki. The October 25th record is our latest fall record of this subspecies. This subspecies typically occurs earlier and later than the expected Western Palm Warblers in the spring and fall warbler migrations, respectively.

Unusually high counts: The 810 Common Loons at Wilson on the 19th and the 1480 Common Loons from Wilson to Shadigee on the 25th far exceeds the count of 338 at Somerset on October 26, 1991. The 1500 Double-crested Cormorants blown in to Buffalo by strong winds on the 27th is our second highest number. The high number of 2000 Brown-headed Cowbirds in Royalton by D'Anna on the 13th is shared with Beal's observation of the same number at the Jamestown roost on August 29, 1969. However there are five higher counts from single locations in 1960 and 1961. Although this month's count of 227 American

Coots by Neveu on Chautauqua Lake may seem impressive, it is dwarfed by the 3868 counted by Sundell November 28, 1975, and other counts at the same location.

Rarities: The three Trumpeter Swans (two at 7386 Beaujean Road in Town of Chautauqua and one at Hartson Swamp in Clay Ponds WMA) were observed in Chautauqua County are only our fifth and sixth records for the month of October. In his Verification Form, Jim Berry states: "On Wednesday October 8, 2008 NYS DEC Game Management Technician Bob Lichorat"...called me from Beaujean Rd. to report the sighting of 2 Trumpeter Swans. He said he was called to the site by Bill Blanchard"...who suspected they were Mute Swans and was seeking a depredation permit so he could shoot them. His reason was that the swans prevent Canada Geese from using the pond and since October 11, was youth resident goose hunting day he wanted to use the pond for hunting."..."When I arrived on the scene on October 9 at 6:00 PM I found the birds in the pond on the north side of the road. After a few minutes, Bill Blanchard arrived and introduced himself. He repeated what I heard from Mr. Lichorat, but added that the birds had a nest with eggs during the summer. He pointed out a dark area in a hummock in the east central quadrant of the pond and added that the eggs were destroyed and renesting was not attempted. The other Trumpeter Swan at Clay Pond WMA that also summered had a yellow wing tag with a black code D65 indicating that this male hatched in 2006 at Wye Marsh in Midland, Ontario, and was banded September 14, 2006, at Grand Valley about 100 km North-northwest of Toronto. Unfortunately no verification has been received for the presumed nesting attempt, which would have placed the observation as the first breeding record of Trumpeter Swan in the BOS region.

Peter Yoerg found a juvenile sandpiper at the old Erie Beach Ferry Pier on September 28th that was not readily identified until early October. He also observed the same bird on October 4, 5, 6, and 12th as did many other birders. This is the first October record of Curlew Sandpiper and there are only four records in our archives. Robert Curry found our first one on August 21, 1965, at Morgan's Point, Ontario. He feels this is the same bird found September 11, 1965, at Grant Point further west along the north shore of Lake Erie. There it later was shot by Adrian Dorst and donated to the Buffalo Museum of Science where it is labeled BSNS 5075.

The **White-winged Dove** first identified in July of this year was again documented by Scott A. Watson on October 9th and 18th in St. Catharines. More details on this extraordinarily rare bird are found in "THE MONTH: August" and "Statisticians Note Regarding Rare August Dove Sightings" (Prothonotary vol. 74, no. 9, pp.73-74 and 79).

The White-eyed Vireo documented in Wilson on the 24th and 28th by Potter and D'Anna respectively, marks the fifth consecutive year (since 2004) this species has occurred during fall migration. Previous to this, only seven other fall migrant records occur between 1935 and 2003.

(continued on page 104)

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Eighth Edition - Revised 2007) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration.

(f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicates nest(s). (yg) Indicates young.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Snow Goose	11, 18	1, 1 (white)	Dayton	Neveu
"	24, 31	3, 5 (white)	Hanover	Neveu
Cackling Goose	<u>4F</u>	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	<u>4F</u> , 23	2, 16	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	15	1	St. Catharines (Ont)	Pawlicki, Watson
"	23	1	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki, Watson
Brant	30F	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
<u>Trumpeter Swan</u>	8	2	Chautauqua	Lazarczyk, Smith
"	8; 31	1; 1	Clay Ponds WMA	Lazarczyk; Berry
"	9	2	Chautauqua	Berry
Wood Duck	1	51	Alexander	Dart
"	7	55	Sherman	Neveu
American Wigeon	5	150	Batavia WWTP	Dart, Beattie
"	23	152	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki
American Black Duck	19	20	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Northern Shoveler	19	268	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Northern Pintail	4	29	Wilson	D'Anna
"	4	86	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
"	23	80	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki
"	19, 23	62, 75	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Green-winged Teal	4	30	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Canvasback	7F	1	Celeron	Neveu
Redhead	19	1	Batavia WWTP	Pawlicki, Watson
"	22	2	Celeron	Neveu
Ring-necked Duck	4,18,31	43, 64, 157	Hanover	Neveu
Greater Scaup	4	8	Wilson	D'Anna
"	22	82	Celeron	Neveu
"	23	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	27	30	La Salle Park	Watson
"	29	40	Bird I. Pier	Watson
Lesser Scaup	4F	3	Wilson	D'Anna
"	4F, 23	4, 5	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Surf Scoter	6	4	Olcott	Watson
"	6	14	Fort Eric (Ont)	Morgante
"	9, 29	6, 30	Bird I. Pier	Watson
"	18	15	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Potter
"	26	2	Hamburg Town Park	Yoerg, Wheeler et al
White-winged Scoter	3, 18	7, 372	Wilson	D'Anna
"	6	4	Olcott	Watson

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	22	1	Batavia WWTP	Pawlicki, Watson
"	29	5	Bird I. Pier	Watson
Black Scoter	5F; 23	1; 1	Batavia WWTP	Dart, Beattie; Lazarczyk
"	6	1	Olcott	Watson
"	18	8	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Potter
"	26	1	Hamburg	Pawlicki, Yoerg et al
"	31	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Lazarczyk, Gula
Long-tailed Duck	6F	3	Fort Erie (Ont)	Morgante
"	18	59	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Potter
Bufflehead	18	5	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Potter
Common Goldeneye	18F	1	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Potter
Common Merganser	4; 5	38; 64	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Dart, Beattie
"	8, 9	190, 88	Sheridan	Neveu
Red-br. Merganser	3F	5	Wilson	D'Anna
Ruddy Duck	4, 19	120, 285	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	4	2	Hanover	Neveu
"	7	1	Celeron	Neveu
"	11, 25	44, 137	Dayton	Neveu
"	22	1	Cassadaga Lake	Neveu
"	23	1	Findley Lake	Neveu
Red-throated Loon	4E, 26	2, 15	Wilson	D'Anna
"	25	40	Wilson to Shadigee	Pawlicki, D'Anna (BOS)
Common Loon	4, 19	47, <u>810</u>	Wilson	D'Anna
"	25	<u>1480</u>	Wilson to Shadigee	Pawlicki, D'Anna (BOS)
Pied-billed Grebe	4	32	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	7	13	Celeron	Neveu
"	22	9	Cassadaga Lake	Neveu
"	23	6	Gouinlock's Pond	Beattie, Lazarczyk
Horned Grebe	18	14	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Potter
Red-necked Grebe	18	2	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Potter
"	19, 26	6, 2	Wilson	D'Anna
"	19	1	Porter	D'Anna
Eared Grebe	4 - 29	3	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Zebehazys et al
D.-crested Cormorant	3	658	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	7, 11	250, 300	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	27	<u>1500</u>	Buffalo	Watson
Great Egret	1	2	Tonawanda	Hess
"	5	2	Batavia WWTP	Dart, Beattie
"	6; 27, 29	1; 4, 2	Fort Erie (Ont)	Morgante; Watson
"	23	5	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki, Watson
Green Heron	13L	1	Batavia WWTP	Zebehazys
Black-cr. Night-Heron	5	1	Batavia WWTP	Dart, Beattie
"	19	1	Strawberry I.	Watson
Turkey Vulture	28, 30	12, 10	Lewiston	Landon
Osprey	4 - 24	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	24	1	UB north campus	Pawlicki
Bald Eagle	4	2 ad	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	4, 23	2, 2 ad	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
"	4, 31	2 ad	Dayton	Neveu
"	15	1 imm	Langford	J. Landau
Red-shouldered Hawk	11	1	Jamestown	Berry
"	18	2	Arkwright	Neveu
Red-tailed Hawk	5	1 (leucistic)	Cambria	D&D Suggs
Rough-legged Hawk	22F	1	Ischua	J. Landau

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	25	1	Somerset	D'Anna (BOS)
"	25	1	Yates	D'Anna (BOS)
"	30	1	Tonawanda	Watson
Merlin	3	1	Salamanca	Baird
"	24	1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki
Peregrine Falcon	3; 7; 14	1; 2; 2	North Grand I. bridges	Watson; Morgante; Hess
"	4	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	4	1	Jaeger Rocks (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	9; 29	1; 1 ad	Buffalo	Pawlicki et al
"	21	1	South Grand I. bridges	Landon
"	26	1	Wilson	D&D Suggs
"	29	1	Bird Island Pier	Yoerg
American Coot	7, 22	110, 227	Celeron	Neveu
"	19	102	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	23	96	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki
Black-bellied Plover	2, 7	1, 1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	5	1	Batavia WWTP	Dart, Beattie
"	13	60	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	26L	3	Hamburg	Pawlicki et al
Killdeer	26	65	Bethany	Salvadore, Dart
Greater Yellowlegs	22	1	Batavia WWTP	Dart, Beattie
"	25	1	Dayton	Neveu
Solitary Sandpiper	7	1	Fredonia	Neveu
* Hudsonian Godwit	3; 15	1	Niagara-on-Lake (Ont)	Roy et al; Watson et al
Sanderling	2	8	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	4	13	Bird I. Pier	Yoerg
"	5	12	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
Semipalmated Sand.	5L	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
White-r. Sandpiper	4, 5L	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
Pectoral Sandpiper	4, 6	2, 3	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg, Salembier
"	15L	3	Avondale (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
Dunlin	5	4	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
"	28	1	Bird I. Pier	Yoerg
* Curlew Sandpiper	4 - 12	1 juv	Jaeger Rocks (Ont)	Yoerg
"	5	1 juv	Jaeger Rocks (Ont)	Iron
"	5, 11	1 juv	Jaeger Rocks (Ont)	D'Anna
Short-b. Dowitcher	2L	1	Sherman	Neveu
Wilson's Snipe	11	1	Villanova	Neveu
* Red Phalarope	28F; 29	1	Bird I. Pier	Pawlicki et al
Parasitic Jaeger	26	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Little Gull	29	1	Niagara Falls	Potter
"	29	3	Lewiston	Potter
Lesser Black-b. Gull	7	1	Goat I.	Morgante
"	25	1	Olcott	Pawlicki, D'Anna et al
Sabine's Gull	27F - 29	1 juv	Squaw I.	Watson et al
Common Tern	28	1	Buffalo	Pawlicki et al
White-winged Dove	9, 18	1	St. Catharines (Ont)	S. Watson
Pileated Woodpecker	5	1	Wilson-Tusc. SP	D&D Suggs
White-eyed Vireo	24; 28	1	Wilson	Potter; D'Anna
Blue-headed Vireo	18	1	Allegany SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	24; 25	1; 1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki; Salembier
Philadelphia Vireo	3L	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Common Raven	4	1	Arkwright	Neveu
"	5; 18	2; 3	Allegany SP	Baird; Yoerg
"	18	2	Bethany	Beattie

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Tree Swallow	4	40	Batavia WWTP	Watson
N. Rough-w. Swallow	23	1	Batavia WWTP	Lazarczyk, Beattie
Barn Swallow	19; 23L	2; 1	Batavia WWTP	Watson; D'Anna et al
Carolina Wren	1 - 24	1 - 2	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	1 - 28	1 - 2	Bethany	Beattie
"	3, 4	1	Salamanca	Baird
"	15	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
"	25	3	Somerset	D'Anna (BOS)
"	29	1	Silver Creek	Neveu
House Wren	15L	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Winter Wren	18, 25	7, 1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	30	1	Tonawanda	Watson
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	<u>29</u>	1	Fredonia	Goetz
Gray-cheeked Thrush	9	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
Swainson's Thrush	5	2	Tonawanda	Hess
"	8	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Gray Catbird	23	1	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki
Brown Thrasher	1, 3	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	3	1	RTPI	Berry
American Pipit	19	3	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	23; 26	28; 90	Somerset	Pawlicki; D&D Suggs
Tennessee Warbler	1	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	7L	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Orange-cr. Warbler	2	2	Bethany	Beattie
"	3	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Nashville Warbler	4, 16	13, 1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	23L	1	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna et al
Northern Parula	4L	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Cape May Warbler	4	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	4	3	Salamanca	Baird
"	7	1	Goat I.	Morgante
Yellow-r. Warbler	24, 30	40, 35	Amherst SP	Pawlicki
Bl.-thr. Green Warb.	19L	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Palm Warbler	24	1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
* Palm Warbler <i>D. p. hypochrysea</i>	25	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Bay-breasted Warbler	2L	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Black-&-White Warbler	1L	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Mourning Warbler	1L	1	Tifft NP	Watson
Hooded Warbler	1L	2	Tifft NP	Watson
Wilson's Warbler	3L	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Eastern Towhee	3F	1	RTPI	Berry
"	6	1	Wilson	Potter
Amer. Tree Sparrow	8F	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	19	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Pawlicki
Chipping Sparrow	27	1 banded	Alfred	Brooks
"	30	1	Amherst	Pawlicki
Field Sparrow	30	1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
"	30	2	Tonawanda	Watson
Savannah Sparrow	24	1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
"	25L	1	Yates	Pawlicki, Mitchell (BOS)
Fox Sparrow	19; 30	3; 5	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	23	8	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki, Watson
"	24	14	Allegany SP	Baird
"	30	15	Tonawanda	Watson

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Lincoln's Sparrow	18L	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Snow Bunting	19F	6	Wilson	D'Anna
"	22; 29	35; 50	Batavia WWTP	Dart, Beattie; Zebechazys
"	24, 30	1, 6	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	25	200	Somerset	D'Anna (BOS)
Rose-br. Grosbeak	1	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	4L	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Eastern Meadowlark	22	6	Batavia WWTP	Dart, Beattie
"	30	39	Charlotte	R&C Budniewski
Rusty Blackbird	18; 23	15; 3	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki; Watson et al
"	19	5	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
"	22	6	Cassadaga	Neveu
"	23	8	Clymer	Neveu
"	26	2	Busti	Berry
Brown-head. Cowbird	4	500	Oakfield	Watson
"	13	<u>2000</u>	Royalton	D'Anna, Potter
Purple Finch	23	6	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki
"	27	2	Buffalo	Yoerg
Pine Siskin	6F; 19	3; 460	Wilson	Potter; D'Anna
"	15	60	St. Catharines (Ont)	Pawlicki, Watson
"	18	30	Fredonia	Goetz
"	18; 28	35; 50	Allegany SP	Yoerg, Henderson; Baird
"	19	130	Porter	D'Anna, Potter
"	18 - 30	1 - 24	Throughout WNY	4 other records
American Goldfinch	22	75	Alfred	Brooks

Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded this year: **277**

Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for this month: **004**

Total for the year 2008: **281**

Statisticians' Note I: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision.

Statisticians' Note II: We are asking members of the BOS and any other birders who send in reports to the BOS to advise us as soon as they can of any possible errors in regard to records published in the Prothonotary, particularly in the Noteworthy Records so that we can make any necessary changes as soon as appropriate.

Lake Ontario Plain Field Trip

Willie D'Anna

The B.O.S. Lake Ontario Plain field trip was held in rainy conditions. The trip was conducted in Niagara County from Wilson to Somerset and in the western Orleans County Town of Yates. Though our hopes were high for a rarity, as bad weather often equals good birds, we had to be content with a great show of loons and a good species list. I thank Jim Pawlicki for counting the loons on the water – over 1500 COMMON and 40 RED-THROATED LOONS, as well as 16 RED-NECKED GREBES. We had a good assortment of dabbling and diving ducks. Songbird highlights included a trio of CAROLINA WRENS, two of which were counter-singing, EASTERN BLUEBIRDS, loads of WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS, two EASTERN TOWHEES, HERMIT THRUSH, and YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER. Field birds included RING-NECKED PHEASANTS, a group of 200 SNOW BUNTINGS, and 28 AMERICAN PIPITS, the latter providing close-up views never before experienced by some participants. Two ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS were the first ones noted in the area this fall. The trip list was 64 species.



Hudsonian Godwit photographed by Kayo Roy at Parmalat Sewage Ponds (formerly Avondale Sewage Ponds) in Niagara-on-the-Lake on October 3, 2008. This bird was originally found on September 22, 2008 by Stuart McKee, a visiting birder from Belfast, Ireland. Note the partially broken upper mandible.

Date: October 12, 2008

Compiler: Mike Hamilton

Weather Synopsis: Terry Yonker

Weather Synopsis

A large high pressure centered over New England brought light southerly breezes, warm temperatures and clear skies to the count area during the entire day. The day previous to the count was only slightly cooler with light winds predominantly from the north east improving conditions for nocturnally migrating birds during the evening.

Buffalo-Niagara International Airport

Sunrise: 7:26 AM EDT

Sunset: 6:37 PM EDT

TIME	WEATHER	TEMP	DEW PT	PRESSURE	DIR/WIND	REMARKS
Midnight	Clear	53	45	30.44	E6	.
3:00 am	Clear	52	43	30.44	SE6	
6:00 am	Clear	52	43	30.46	SE3	
9:00 am	Partly Cloudy	57	45	30.09	SE8	
Noon	Clear	73	48	30.47	SW6	
3:00 pm	Clear	75	43	30.42	W9	
6:00 pm	Clear	71	45	30.42	SW8	
9:00 pm	Clear	64	46	30.42	Calm	
Midnight	Clear	56	50	30.40	S3	

Compilation: The following is a list of species recorded on the count together with the number of individuals tabulated. Bold face names indicate species for which acceptable written verifications were received. **F** represents first and **L** last dates for the fall migration. * first date for the year. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the section numbers are given in parentheses ().

G E E S E - H E R O N S

Snow Goose	5	(13,17)	Black Scoter	25	(8,11)
Canada Goose	23649		Long-tailed Duck	2	(3)
Mute Swan	32		Bufflehead	F 15	(16)
Trumpeter Swan	2	(22)	Hooded Merganser	28	
Wood Duck	287		Common Merganser	358	
Gadwall	37		Red-breasted Merganser	199	
American Wigeon	179		Ruddy Duck	140	
American Black Duck	71		unspecified ducks	41	(3,10)
Mallard	2163		Ring-necked Pheasant	21	
Blue-winged Teal	20		Ruffed Grouse	11	
Northern Shoveler	46	(11,13)	Wild Turkey	219	
Northern Pintail	21		Common Loon	69	(3,4,7)
Green-winged Teal	114		Pied-billed Grebe	127	
unspecified teal	7	(8)	Horned Grebe	F 7	(3,5,7)
Canvasback	2	(21,22)	Red-necked Grebe	F 1	(5)
Redhead	F 1	(20)	Eared Grebe	2	(13)
Ring-necked Duck	12		Double-crested Cormorant	1877	
Greater Scaup	81	(2,3,7)	Great Blue Heron	115	
Lesser Scaup	132		Great Egret	23	
unspecified scaup	13	(3)	Green Heron	4	
Surf Scoter	2	(3)	Black-crowned Night-Heron	3	(7,9,13)
White-winged Scoter	34	(3,4)			

V U L T U R E S - C O O T S

Turkey Vulture	454		Broad-winged Hawk	L 1	(20)
Osprey	5		Red-tailed Hawk	181	
Bald Eagle	17		unspecified buteos	1	(23)
Northern Harrier	17		American Kestrel	26	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	24		Merlin	3	(2,7,17)
Cooper's Hawk	18		Peregrine Falcon	4	(2,6,7)
<i>Cooper's/Sharp-shinned Hawk</i>	1	(3)	unspecified hawks	2	(20)
unspecified accipiters	1	(10)	American Coot	466	
Red-shouldered Hawk	7				

PLOVERS - TERNS

Black-bellied Plover		6	
Semipalmated Plover	L	5	(6,17)
Killdeer		1427	
Greater Yellowlegs		25	
Lesser Yellowlegs		7	
Solitary Sandpiper	L	2	(7)
Spotted Sandpiper	L	2	(4)
Sanderling		55	(6,7,11)
Baird's Sandpiper	L	1	(7)
Pectoral Sandpiper		1	(23)
Dunlin		13	(7,8,11)

Curlew Sandpiper		1	(8)
Wilson's Snipe		1	(23)
American Woodcock		3	(20)
* Parasitic Jaeger	F	1	(3)
Bonaparte's Gull		101	
Ring-billed Gull		8153	
Herring Gull		1488	
Lesser Black-backed Gull		1	(3)
Gr. Black-backed Gull		62	
unspecified gulls		307	(5,8,21)
Black Tern	L	4	(10)

PIGEONS - SWALLOWS

Rock Pigeon		1793	
Mourning Dove		1640	
White-winged Dove		1	(2)
Eastern Screech-Owl		23	
Great Horned Owl		12	
Barred Owl		5	(17,19,20)
Ruby-throated Hummingbird		2	(3,20)
Belted Kingfisher		42	
Red-headed Woodpecker		2	(5,14)
Red-bellied Woodpecker		187	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		15	
Downy Woodpecker		296	
Hairy Woodpecker		101	
Northern Flicker		173	

Pileated Woodpecker		32	
Eastern Wood-Pewee	L	1	(7)
Eastern Phoebe		34	
Northern Shrike		1	(5)
Blue-headed Vireo		11	
Red-eyed Vireo	L	4	(11,13)
Blue Jay		1778	
American Crow		3744	
Common Raven		20	
Horned Lark		82	
Tree Swallow	L	9	(1,13)
N. Rough-winged Swallow		1	(7)
Barn Swallow		5	(3,14,23)
unspecified swallows		6	(8)

TITS - WAXWINGS

Black-capped Chickadee		1455	
Tufted Titmouse		146	
Red-breasted Nuthatch		67	
White-breasted Nuthatch		301	
Brown Creeper		26	
Carolina Wren		30	
House Wren		5	
Winter Wren		27	
Marsh Wren	L	8	(22)
Golden-crowned Kinglet		320	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		239	
Eastern Bluebird		366	

Gray-cheeked Thrush	L	3	(10,11,17)
Swainson's Thrush	L	4	(2,17)
Hermit Thrush		60	
Wood Thrush		1	(3)
American Robin		2195	
Gray Catbird		35	
Northern Mockingbird		23	
Brown Thrasher	L	1	(10)
European Starling		25570	
American Pipit		364	
Cedar Waxwing		598	

WARBLERS

Orange-crowned Warbler	L	4	(2,20,24)
Nashville Warbler		6	(2,11,20)
Chestnut-sided Warbler	L	1	(22)
Magnolia Warbler	L	10	
Cape May Warbler	L	1	(20)
Black-throated Blue Warbler	L	3	(9,13,20)
Yellow-rumped Warbler		804	
Black-throated Green Warbler		4	(7,11,13)

Pine Warbler		3	(9,13,20)
Palm Warbler		13	
Blackpoll Warbler	L	6	
American Redstart	L	3	(20,24,27)
Connecticut Warbler		1	(24)
Common Yellowthroat		20	
unspecified warblers		4	(1,10,20)

Eastern Towhee	50	Northern Cardinal	443
Chipping Sparrow	395	Indigo Bunting	L 1 (5)
Field Sparrow	184	Red-winged Blackbird	7573
Vesper Sparrow	8 (5,8,18)	Eastern Meadowlark	69
Savannah Sparrow	41	Rusty Blackbird	187
Fox Sparrow	F 5	Common Grackle	1960
Song Sparrow	979	Brown-headed Cowbird	970
Lincoln's Sparrow	4	Purple Finch	57
Swamp Sparrow	158	House Finch	332
White-throated Sparrow	1572	Pine Siskin	231
White-crowned Sparrow	310	American Goldfinch	1361
Dark-eyed Junco	576	House Sparrow	1694
unspecified sparrows	14 (1,10,20)	unspecified birds	1 (1)
Lapland Longspur	F 1 (3)		

Summary Information – Total Species Observed**163**
Total Individual Birds Observed ... **105,014**

Comparisons – Associated charts, available from Michael Hamilton, give comparative summary information for the most recent decade, for the full 73 counts and decade by decade since 1935. A chart listing totals for each species per section for the 2008 count is also available. In addition the following notes are of interest:

RECORDS:

- First count record:** Curlew Sandpiper, 1;White-winged Dove, 1
- Second count record:** none
- Third count record:** Trumpeter Swan, 2;
- First decade record:** Curlew Sandpiper, 1; Parasitic Jaeger,1; Black Tern, 4; White-winged Dove, 1; Northern Shrike, 1; Connecticut Warbler,1
- Second decade record:** Black Scoter, 25; Baird’s Sandpiper, 1
- Third decade record:** Trumpeter Swan, 2; Eared Grebe, 2; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 2

INDIVIDUAL SPECIES SINCE 1935:

Highest count since 1935 (x the average): Trumpeter Swan, 2 (36.5x); Common Merganser 358 (7.6 x); Peregrine Falcon, 4 (10.4x); Killdeer, 1427 (2.5x); Curlew Sandpiper,1 (73x); White-winged Dove, 1 (73x); Eastern Screech-Owl, 23 (4.1x); Pileated Woodpecker, 32 (4.2x); Northern Shrike, 1 (9.1x); Northern Cardinal, 443 (2.4x). *Total of 10*
Lowest count since 1935 (% of the average): None

INDIVIDUAL SPECIES SINCE 1999:

Highest count in past decade (x the average): Trumpeter Swan, 2 (5x); Black Scoter, 25 (8.9x); Hooded Merganser, 28 (1.8x); Common Merganser, 358 (2x); Ring-necked Pheasant, 21 (1.5x); Peregrine Falcon, 4 (1.9x); Killdeer, 1427 (2.2x); Curlew Sandpiper,1 (10x); Parasitic Jaeger, 1 (10x); Black Tern, 4 (10x); White-winged Dove, 1 (10x); Eastern Screech-Owl, 23 (1.8x); Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 2 (5x); Pileated Woodpecker, 32 (1.8x); Northern Shrike, 1 (10x); Chestnut-sided Warbler, 1 (1.7x); Connecticut Warbler, 1 (10x); Field Sparrow, 184 (1.7x); Northern Cardinal, 443 (1.3x); Pine Siskin, 231 (7x). *Total of 20*
Lowest count in past decade (% of the average): Mallard, 2163 (57%); Northern Shoveler, 46 (24%); Green-winged Teal’ 114 (47%); Redhead, 1 (6%); Ring-necked Duck,12 (8%); White-winged Scoter, 34 (15%); Northern Harrier, 17 (48%); American Kestrel, 26 (46%);Wilson’s Snipe, 1 (7%); Bonaparte’s Gull, 101 (21%); Ring-billed Gull, 8153 (73%); Rock Pigeon, 1793 (81%); Red-winged Blackbird, 7573 (52%); Rusty Blackbird, 187 (33%); Common Grackle, 1960 (29%); House Finch, 332 (63%). *Total of 16*

SIGNIFICANT POPULATION INCREASES AND DECREASES, DECADE 1966-1975 TO DECADE 1999-2008:

This report institutes a change in the analysis of population change. Prior to 1966 the number of observers on these counts was fairly stable at around 150. In 1966 the Lake Erie Bird Club of Dunkirk, the Cattaraugus Bird Club, the Allegany Bird Club and the Jamestown Audubon Society began participating in the counts and the number of observers increased to approximately 250 where it has remained ever since. Given this stable number of observers it may be more revealing to compare population changes from the decade starting in 1966 to the current decade, rather than the entire count period to the current decade, as I have done in the past. And to make this comparison more scientifically meaningful t-testing has been used to compare the birds observed in the two ten year periods in order to determine if there has been a statistically significant change in the population of each recorded species. Those species which are statistically significantly different at the 95% confidence level are listed below.

INCREASES: *The numbers shown indicate the increase multiple except when no sightings occurred in the first decade, in which case the numbers in parenthesis indicate the total number observed in each of the two decades:* Canada Goose, 2.8x; Mute Swan, (0/212); Wood Duck, 1.5x; Gadwall, 3.6x; Mallard, 2.7x; Northern Shoveler, 30.8x; Green-winged Teal, 2.1x; Ring-necked Duck, 8.8x; White-winged Scoter, 6.2x; Hooded Merganser, 3.9x; Common Merganser, 9.6x; Red-breasted Merganser, 7x; Ruddy Duck, 19.1x; Wild Turkey, 5.7x; Red-throated Loon, (0/10); Eared Grebe, (0/7); Double-crested Cormorant, 2664x; Great Blue Heron, 1.6x; Great Egret, (0/150); Turkey Vulture, 10.5x; Bald Eagle, 36x; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 3.2x; Cooper's Hawk, 2.2x; Red-tailed Hawk, 1.4x; Merlin, 23x; Peregrine Falcon, 21x; Sandhill Crane, 14x; Buff-breasted Sandpiper, (0/5); Ring-billed Gull, 1.8x; Lesser Black-backed Gull (0/9); Great Black-backed Gull, 1.5x; Caspian Tern, 6x; Rock Pigeon, 2.3x; Mourning Dove, 6.6x; Barred Owl, 2.43x; Saw-whet Owl, 18x; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 24x; Pileated Woodpecker, 2.5x; Blue-headed Vireo, 1.8x; American Crow, 1.5x; Common Raven (0/200); Tufted Titmouse, 11.5x; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1.9x; Carolina Wren, 4.1x; Eastern Bluebird, 1.9x; Northern Mockingbird, 3.3x; Northern Cardinal, 1.4x; House Finch, 292x.

DECREASES: *The numbers shown indicate the decrease percentage except when no sightings occurred in the last decade, in which case the numbers in parenthesis indicate the total number observed in each of the two decades:* Eurasian Wigeon, (4/0); American Wigeon, 31%; American Black Duck, 23%; Ring-necked Pheasant, 11%; Ruffed Grouse, 31%; Rough-shouldered Hawk, 56%; Sora, (3/0); Rudy Turnstone, (10/0); Dunlin, 19%; American Woodcock, 15%; Franklin's Gull, (15/0); Black-billed Cuckoo, (11/0); Barn Owl (6/0); Long-eared Owl, (2/0); Common Nighthawk, (14/0); Rubby-throated Humminbird, 21%; Belted Kingfisher, 57%; Red-headed Woodpecker, 10%; Great-crested Flycatcher, (2/0); Philadelphia Vireo, 30%; House Wren, 43%; Gray-cheeked Thrush, 46%; Swainson's Thrush, 21%; Wood Thrush, 44%; American Robin, 53%; Brown Thrasher, 17%; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 10%; Magnolia Warbler, 10%; Cape May Warbler, 12%; Blackburnian Warbler, 10%; Bay-breasted Warbler, 10%; Black-and-white Warbler, 21%; Northern Waterthrush, (9/0); Wilson's Warbler, (41/0); Eastern Towhee, 26%; ; Field Sparrow, 34%; Vesper Sparrow, 3%; Savannah Sparrow, 36%; Fox Sparrow, 52%; Song Sparrow, 45%; Dark-eyed Junco, 46%; Dickcissel, (2/0); Eastern Meadowlark, 11%; Pine Siskin, 29%; American Goldfinch, 51%; House Sparrow, 41%.

Sections and Observers: Names of section compilers are in boldface.

1. Fonthill, ON: David Cooper, **Lynne Landon**, Terry Yonker
2. Thorold, ON: Brian Ahara, **Kayo Roy**, Dan Salisbury, John Stevens, Katherine Stoltz
3. Wilson, NY: Diane Cohen, Ken Cohen, **Willie D'Anna**, Betsy Potter
4. Middleport, NY: Julie Eberhart, Holly Sweeny, **Bill Watson**, David Wheeler
5. Oak Orchard, NY: Donald Brasure, Sally Castren, Richard Christensen, Morgan Jones, Susan O'Donnell, **Thomas O'Donnell**, Richard Rosche, Joyce Vana
6. Port Maitland, ON: **Jerry Chapple**, Nina Chapple, George Thomas
7. Lowbanks, ON: Bobby Byron, Richard Byron, **Mike Hamilton**, Marg Partridge, Jim Rozanski, Margaret Wooster
8. Fort Erie, ON: Doug Happ, Marcia Jacklin, Tim Seburn, **Mike Zebehazy**
9. Grand Island, NY: David Friedrich, Mike Galas, Ron Hacker, Sue Hacker, Bernie Kester, Jerry Lazarczyk, **Gerry Rising**
10. Akron, NY: Donna DeLeon, Robert DeLeon, David Gordon, **Don Roberson**, John Welte, Martha Welte
11. Buffalo, NY: Alec Humann, **Chuck Rosenburg**, Richard Salembier, Norm Utec
12. Lancaster, NY: **Greg Coniglio**, Paul Fuhrmann, Linda Holmes, Mahlon Miller, Nancy Miller, Joe Mitchell, Mike Morgante
13. Batavia, NY: **Douglas Beattie**, Sharon Beattie, Carol Britton, Elaine Dart, Dwayne Fonda, Taler Fonda, Kurt Fox, Tad Gerace, Jack Hartwig, Jane Mason, Max Mason, Jim Ochterski, Joe Salvatore, Paula Stone, Dana Stringham, Diane Strinham, Don Thureau, Ginny Tiede
14. Hamburg, NY: Bob Andrie, Ken Brandes, **Joanne Dobbler**, Fred Harrington, Betty Madigan, Patty Madigan, Nancy Vigyikan, Paul Vigyikan
15. Java, NY: **Bill Bogacki**
16. Angola, NY: Tom Connare, Audrey Horbett, **Frances Rew**
17. Cattaraugus, NY: **James Pawlicki**, Brendan Klick
18. Delavan, NY: Chris Betrus, **Bruce Chilton**, Jim Landau, Karen Landau, Jerry Lazarczyk, Jim Wojewodzki
19. Fillmore, NY: Allegany County Bird Club: Ronald Andrews, Art Cooper, James Fegley, John Hasper, Anastasia Knowlton, Dora Lilly, Dan Merritt, Meg Merritt, Louise Mills, John Raybuck, Michael Raybuck, Theresa Rork, Carol Stonemetz, Jean Wilson, **Larry Wilson**, Richard Wilson
20. Dunkirk, NY: Lake Erie Bird Club: Chris Budniewski, Ray Budniewski, **Paul Farver**, Keith Freeman, Joe Gula, Carol Hardenberg, Terry Mahoney, Andy Morrison, David Neveu, Bob Peterson, Beverly Ruska, John Ruska, Jeanine Smith, Linda Taft, Ted Taft, Ted Taft, Jr.
21. Cherry Creek, NY: Jamestown Audubon Society: Jesse Nelson, Joanne Nelson, Bill O'Brien, Linda O'Brien, Bill Seleen, **Bob Sundell**
22. Sherman, NY: Jamestown Audubon Society: Ann Beebe, Jim Berry, Reta Carden, Nancy Karp, Twan Leenders, Linda O'Brien, Herb Smith, **Bob Sundell**
23. Frewsburg, NY: Jamestown Audubon Society: Paul Hedburg, Ruth Lundin, Jean Pigman, Tom Simmons, **Bob Sundell**
24. Salamanca, NY and Allegany State Park: Cattaraugus County Bird Club: **Tim Baird**
25. Allegany, NY: Cattaraugus County Bird Club: **Tim Baird**, Jeff Reed, James VanScoy, Regina VanScoy
26. Cuba, NY: Allegany County Bird Club: **Doris Burton**, Jerry Lazarczyk, Robert Smalley, Denton Willett
27. Bolivar, NY: Allegany County Bird Club: Russel Allen, Ann Brocci, **Doris Burton**, Ann Brocci, Helen Link, Marie Paxhia
28. Alfred, NY: Allegany County Bird Club: Russell Allen, Dan Babcock, Carol Behn, Don Brink, Betsy Brooks, Debbie Bucholz, Doris Burton, Mary Lou Cartledge, Carla Coch, **Diane Converso**, Paul Culley, Karol Doty, John Gradoni, Geri Hills, Ralph Hills, Pat Hulse, Wayne Kellog, Woodie Lange, Barry Lash, Martha Lash, Jerry Lazarczyk, Kathy McDonald, Mary Ormsby, Lyle Pelmiter, Sean Phelan, Dan Ramsey, Evelyn Ramsey, Nicole Ramsey, Ona Reynolds, Nancy Rouse, Maureen Soule, Terah Soule, Megan Staffel, Wilma Taggart, Tim Timbrook, Barbara Ware, Mary Lu Wells, Katy Weiman, **Suzanne Wood**

Total Number of Observers: 198

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January – March Calendar

BOS website
<http://www.bosbirding.org/>



Buffalo-Niagara Region
Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

Jan. 14: The Annual Meeting, with the election of officers for 2009 and the reading of the end of year reports, will take place in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science at 7:00 PM. At the last meeting, Gail Seamans made a motion to amend the by-laws to have one meeting per month (second Wednesday) and it passed unanimously. This will be voted on again at the January 14 meeting.

Jan. 18: Sunday. January Waterfowl Count and mid-winter Bald Eagle Survey. The count period is from Jan. 17-25. However, counters are urged to use the target date of Sunday, Jan. 18, weather permitting. New members are encouraged to participate! Contact the Compiler for info: Jim Landau at 941-3869 or kjlandau@localnet.com

Feb. 11: BOS Meeting will take place in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science at 7:00 PM. Mike Hamilton will give a presentation on the BOS October Counts.

Mar. 11: BOS Meeting will take place in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science at 7:00 PM. Mike Morgante will present an overview of the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas results.

(continued from page 94)

I would like to acknowledge the following sources for providing information and suggestions in the writing of The Month: Jim Berry, Jerry Lazarczyk, Willie D'Anna, Bob Curry, Jim Pawlicki, Mike Morgante and others.

Beardslee, C. S. and H. D. Mitchell. 1965. *Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region*. Bulletin of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, vol. 22.

DiTomasso, D. D. Suggs et al. Noteworthy Records database 1964-2005.

McLaughlin, S. U. S. National Weather Service, Buffalo, NY.

Suggs, David et. al. 2002. *Seasonal Checklist of the Birds - The Niagara Frontier Region*. Buffalo Ornithological Society, Inc.

The PROTHONOTARY



Published Monthly by the

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Volume 75, No. 1 January, 2009

THE MONTH: December

Mike DeSha

Steve McLaughlin of the National Weather Service characterized the month's weather as "a December to remember." There were two major rainstorms, three record snowfalls, record warmth, major flooding and a vicious windstorm. The first three weeks were relatively cold, with brief warm-ups, but the final week was quite mild with a high of 63 °F on the 23rd and 64 °F on the 24th. The average temperature of 29.4 °F was just 0.4 degrees below the normal 29.8 °F.

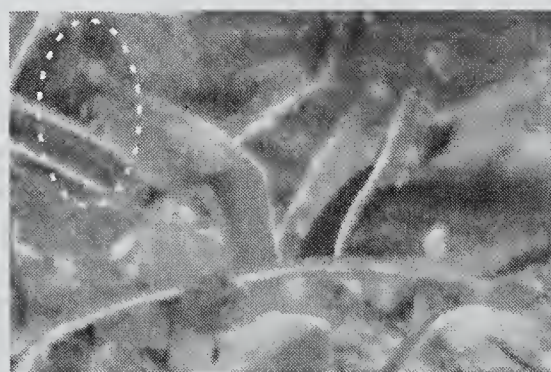
Precipitation was relatively heavy at 6.8 inches (nearly double the normal 3.8 inches), about half falling as rain. At 49.2 inches, the snow that fell was also nearly double the normal 25.5 inches. There were three major snowfalls on the 19th, 21st, and 31st, all records for the day in Buffalo. There was plenty of lake effect snow early in the month, mostly to the south of Buffalo. This snowfall total placed this month in ninth place in terms of December snowfalls over the last 125 years. It was the wettest December in 18 years and the 5th wettest on record.

Winds were generally moderate during the month, except for when a cold front moving through the area on the morning of the 28th created wind gusts of up to 75mph. The winds wreaked havoc with the Bills football game and caused power outages for tens of thousands of people in the area. Lake Erie fell to 35 °F at month's end, which is exactly normal. December was very cloudy. Only one day was classified as mostly sunny and for the month we received only 24% of the possible sunshine.

Gulls, an American Avocet, and the continued movement of finches into our area provided much of the birding excitement in this "December to remember," but there were

recall that in the Month: December 2005, (*The Prothonotary*, Vol. 72, No. 1 January, 2006), I noted that Jerry Laczarczyk's count of 12,000 scaup was evidence countering a previously reported downward trend of Greater Scaup. Pawlicki and Gordon's count provides further evidence of a remarkable turnaround in numbers of this species. On Christmas Day Peter Yoerg spotted an immature female King Eider at Fort Erie, Ontario. On the 3rd of December, Salisbury and the 23rd of December, D'Anna et al reported a female Harlequin Duck.

Once again this December, on the 29th Jeff Reed found a Golden Eagle at Wolf Run in Allegany State Park. For the last few years, Golden Eagles have been seen almost annually along the Allegheny Reservoir and in Allegany State Park.



Slaty-backed Gull photographed by Scott Whittle on Dec. 13, 2008 above the Niagara Falls. Definitive "string of pearls" field mark is shown inside oval in the left photograph. Other field marks can be observed in the lower photograph.



- | | |
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| | Mike DeSha |
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| | Bruce Chilton |
| 7 | Statisticians Report 2008 |
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some other interesting records as well. On December 26, Pawlicki and Gordon found 18,620 Greater Scaup at Fort Erie, Ontario. You may or may not

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On December 6, Debbie Sharon spotted an American Avocet on the east branch of the Niagara River off Beaver Island State Park. It stayed in this area through the 15th when it moved to the other side of the river near Fort Erie, Ontario. During the time it was present it was viewed by others including Jim Pawlicki and Bill Watson, who provided verification reports along with photographs clearly showing the characteristic thin upturned bill, white head and long neck. According to Pawlicki, the bird seen at this location appears to be the same individual that spent most of November and earlier in December at Ajax, Ontario, near Toronto.

A big part of the birding story this month is gulls and their attraction to the Niagara River Important Bird Area. In addition to the regular Little Gulls, Iceland Gulls, Lesser Black-backed Gulls, and Glau-

Willie D'Anna provided the verification report. He wrote that the bird was very similar to a California Gull, but there was a "string of pearls" effect in the primaries noted first by Pawlicki and the bill with its bright yellow tip lacked the pattern of red and black of a California Gull. In his verification, D'Anna goes into a consideration of the question of subspecies. He writes, "Compared to "Short-billed Gull (*L.c. brachyrhynchus*), "Kamchatka Gull" (*L.c. kamtschatshensis*) averages darker and is larger and larger-billed, with a more coarsely marked head and neck (less mottled). It also averages more black and less white in the wingtips. The amount of black in the wingtips and possibly the size and bill-size would indicate "Kamchatka Gull." The mottled streaking is a better feature for "Short-billed Gull." The dark mantle and the mottled nature of the head and neck streaking would seem to rule out a "Common Gull" (*L.c. canus*)." This sighting was the ninth record of a Mew Gull in the BOS area. The first two records of the species, both in 1967 were the first in Ontario as well as the BOS area. They were collected by Andrie, the first of this species to be collected in Eastern North America.

On the same day they found the Mew Gull, the group relocated a California Gull that was first seen on November 23 and reported in last month's Prothonotary.

On the 13th another great discovery was made by a group scanning the rocks in the river above Niagara Falls. A Slaty-backed Gull was spotted first by Jean Iron, who noticed the broad tertial crescent along with head-streaking, which was immediately picked up by Willie D'Anna when she alerted him. Other observers were Betsy Potter, Kevin McLaughlin, Ron Pittaway, Scott Whittle, Paul Hess and Sam Sinderson. After trying to get good views to see the legs of this individual, which were pretty much hidden as the bird slept among other gulls on the rocks, the group was finally treated to a preening and scratching bird where the bright purple-pink legs were easily discerned. The bill was yellow with a reddish gonydial spot. A definitive view of the wings was still missing when thousands of the gulls took to the air. As Willie put it in his post to the birding lists: "... Scott Whittle was digiscoping and incredibly managed to get photos that show the string of pearls on the wingtips." This was only the third record of Slaty-backed Gull in the BOS archives, the previous one in December 2006. All in all it was another great December for gulls.

To continue with other sightings, large flocks of Snow Buntings were seen throughout the month. A maximum count of 275 was reported from Rushford by Lazarczyk and Rosche on the 18th. Watson saw 150 at Batavia WWTP on the 6th; Beattie counted 150 in Bethany on the 24th; and Neveu reported seeing 150 at Dunkirk Airport on the 24th. White-winged Crossbills continued to be seen throughout the region. Pawlicki, Watson, and Lazarczyk reported a flock of 35 individuals in Amherst and there were reports of 2 to 20 individuals throughout western New York.

Pine Siskins continued their irruption into our area. Tim Baird found 88 in Allegany during the Cattaraugus County CBC. Other flocks of up to 20 individuals were reported throughout Western New York.

cous Gulls that showed up again this December to take advantage of the open water of the river, there were three other species whose discovery attracted many birders to the river. On December 6th, birding with a group including Willie D'Anna, Betsy Potter, Ron Pittaway, Kevin McLaughlin, Jim Pawlicki, and David Gordon among others, Jean Iron spotted a different-looking gull and called attention to it. After some study, the group concluded it was a Mew Gull and then went on to try to ascertain the subspecies to which this individual belonged, with no definitive result. To refresh your recollection, the three subspecies are: (1) *canus*, "Common Gull," which breeds in Iceland and northern Europe and winters in southern Europe and North Africa; (2) *brachyrhynchus*, "Mew Gull," also referred to as Short-billed Gull in older literature, breeds in northwestern North America and winters on the West Coast from Alaska to Southern California; (3) *kamtschatshensis*, "Kamchatka Gull," breeds in Siberia and winters south to Japan. *Bull's Birds of New York State*, Emanuel Levine, Ed. 1998.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Eighth Edition - Revised 2007) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration.

(f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicates nest(s). (yg) Indicates young.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

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Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

<u>Species</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Snow Goose	10	19	Darien	Zebehazys
"	22	1	Bethany	Beattie
Cackling Goose	8	1	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki, Watson
"	12	4	Chippawa (Ont)	Pawlicki
"	16	3	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Pawlicki
"	20	3	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	D'Anna
Trumpeter Swan	12	2	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	20	2	E. River, Grand I.	Sharon
Tundra Swan	5	76	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
"	8; 12	41; 250	Beaver I. SP	Lazarczyk; Sharon
"	20	250	Motor I.	Sharon
"	21	18	Niagara Falls	Watson
"	26	3	Allegany SP	Baird
"	28	4	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg et al
Wood Duck	5	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	28	1	Orchard Park	Morgante
Gadwall	2	4	LaSalle Pk, Bflo.	Watson
"	2	26	Bird I. Pier	Watson
"	14	47	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
American Black Duck	6	30	Silver Creek mouth	Neveu
"	16	130	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson, Pawlicki
"	29	111	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
Northern Shoveler	7	2	Queenston Rsrvr (Ont)	Pawlicki, Yoerg
Northern Pintail	16	4	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson, Pawlicki
"	27	35	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki
Green-winged Teal	6	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	7	7	Queenston Rsrvr (Ont)	Pawlicki, Yoerg
"	20	1	Lockport	Pawlicki, Poczewinskis
Canvasback	4	150	Niagara Falls	Pawlicki
"	8	166	Buffalo Harbor	Watson
"	25	650	Beaver I. SP	Pawlicki
Redhead	8, 26, 30	9, 10, 14	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	11	28	Buffalo Harbor	Watson
"	26	<u>1680</u>	Fort Erie (Ont)	Pawlicki, Gordon
Ring-necked Duck	2	89	LaSalle Pk, Bflo.	Watson
"	4	126	Niagara Falls	Pawlicki
"	30	20	Buffalo	Pawlicki, Gordon
Greater Scaup	26	<u>18620</u>	Fort Erie (Ont)	Pawlicki, Gordon
Lesser Scaup	26	<u>980</u>	Fort Erie (Ont)	Pawlicki, Gordon

<u>Species</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	26	7	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
* King Eider	25	1 imm fem	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
Harlequin Duck	3; 23	1 fem	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Salisbury; D'Anna et al
Surf Scoter	28	1	Sheridan	Neveu
White-winged Scoter	25	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
"	27	38	Fort Niagara SP	Watson, Gordon
Black Scoter	26	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Pawlicki, Gordon
Long-tailed Duck	26	840	Fort Erie (Ont)	Pawlicki, Gordon
Bufflehead	2	1050	Buffalo	Watson
"	26	2240	Fort Erie (Ont)	Pawlicki, Gordon
Common Goldeneye	26	<u>2800</u>	Fort Erie (Ont)	Pawlicki, Gordon
Hooded Merganser	6	21	Silver Creek mouth	Neveu
"	6, 15, 26	93, 66, 87	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	14	30	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
"	14	10	Quecnston Rsrvr (Ont)	Watson
Common Merganser	11, 24	91, 217	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	21	377	Chippawa (Ont)	Watson
Red-br. Merganser	2	500	Buffalo	Watson
Ruddy Duck	2	2	LaSalle Pk, Bflo.	Watson
"	6	4	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	11; 29	1; 2	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu; Watson, Pawlicki
"	12, 18	2, 2	E. River, Grand I.	Sharon
"	14	2	Quecnston Rsrvr (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	30	1	Buffalo	Pawlicki, Gordon
Common Loon	14	1	Niagara Falls	Watson
Pied-billed Grebe	6, 26; 29	11, 9; 7	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu; Watson
Horned Grebe	2	38	Sheridan	Neveu
"	21	8	Chautauqua L.	Berry
D.-crested Cormorant	29	164	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
Great Blue Heron	11, 30	14, 15	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Bald Eagle	3	2 ad	Dayton	Neveu
"	8	2 juv	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	21	1 ad	Navy I. (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	25	2 ad	Strawberry I.	Pawlicki
"	1 - 29	1	Throughout WNY	9 other reports
Red-shouldered Hawk	6	2	Jamestown	Berry
Rough-legged Hawk	14	1	Ellicott	Berry
"	18	1	New Hudson	Lazarczyk, Rosche
"	23	1	South Dayton	Neveu
"	24	1	Dunkirk Airport	Neveu
"	28	1 (light)	Allegany SP	Baird
"	28	1	Bethany	Beattie
<u>Golden Eagle</u>	29	1	Allegany SP	Reed
Merlin	4	2	UB south campus	Yoerg
"	22	1	Williamsville	Salcambier
Peregrine Falcon	10	2	N. Grand I. bridge	Lazarczyk
"	21	1	Buffalo	Rising et al
"	25, 26	1 - 2 ad	Tonawanda	Pawlicki
American Coot	27	148	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
Killdeer	7, 8	1, 1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
<u>American Avocet</u>	7 - 16	1 fem	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	8	1 fem	Grand I.	Watson, Pawlicki, Salembier
Purple Sandpiper	13	2	Niagara Falls (Ont)	D'Anna et al
"	28	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Wheeler, Neveu

<u>Species</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Dunlin	7, 26	1, 1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Little Gull	28	2	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	28	3	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Neveu et al
"	28	9 - 12 ad	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg et al
"	28	1	Silver Creek mouth	Neveu
Bonaparte's Gull	14	1 albino	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	Pawlicki, Watson
* <u>Mew Gull</u>	6	1 ad	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	D'Anna, Iron et al
<u>California Gull</u>	6	1 (2 nd wint.)	Niagara Falls (Ont)	D'Anna, Iron et al
"	6, 7	1 (2 nd wint.)	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Pawlicki et al
Iceland Gull	1; 7, 14	3; 10, 6	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	DiLabio; Watson et al
"	14	2	Goat I.	Watson, Pawlicki
"	27	6	Porter	D'Anna et al
"	28	2	Sheridan	Pawlicki
Lesser Black-b. Gull	1; 7	2; 3	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	DiLabio; Pawlicki et al
"	14	3	Goat I.	Watson, Pawlicki
"	14	2	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	29	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson, Pawlicki
* <u>Slaty-backed Gull</u>	13	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	D'Anna, Whittle et al
Glaucous Gull	14	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	14	1	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	20	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	27	1	Porter	D'Anna et al
Great Black-b. Gull	15	150	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Mourning Dove	10	300	Marilla	Zebehazys
Snowy Owl	2	1	Porter	Tower, Potter, D'Anna
"	16	1	Medina	Watson, Salembiers et al
"	21	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
Short-eared Owl	5; 8	3; 5	Niagara Falls Airport	Pawlicki, Watson; Salembier
"	16	1	Lockport	Salembier
"	16	3	Shelby	Pawlicki, Watson
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	14	1	Allegany	Baird
"	31	1	Perrysburg	Towne
Northern Shrike	1 - 27	1	Throughout WNY	8 reports
Common Raven	14	1	Allegany Twp.	Baird (Catt Co. CBC)
"	21, 26	2, 2	Allegany SP	Baird
Horned Lark	2	40	Alexander	Zebehazys
"	17	12	Eden	Andrle
"	17	43	Medina	Beattie, Hartwig
"	17	60	Oakfield	Beattie, Hartwig
"	24	50	Bethany	Beattie
Brown Creeper	27	6	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki
Carolina Wren	1 - 24	1	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	1 - 27	1	Orchard Park (f)	Zebehazys
"	3 - 15	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	10	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	17	1	Eden (f)	Andrle
"	27	1	Fort Niagara	Watson, Gordon
Winter Wren	27	1	Four Mile Creek SP	Potter
Golden-cr. Kinglet	1, 5	10, 5	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	2, 20	5, 4	Sheridan	Neveu
Eastern Bluebird	27	12	Fort Niagara SP	Watson, Gordon
"	27	12	Alexander	Dart
"	8 - 31	2 - 7	Throughout WNY	6 other reports
Hermit Thrush	27	1	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna et al

<u>Species</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
American Robin	4	15	Tonawanda	Watson
"	11	18	Tifft NP	Watson
"	25	15	Amherst	Pawlicki
"	25	15	Beaver I. SP	Pawlicki
Gray Catbird	27	2	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki
Yellow-r. Warbler	27	6	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki
Fox Sparrow	28	1	Orchard Park	Pawlicki
White-cr. Sparrow	20	5	Pomfret	Mosher
"	20	4	Wilson	D'Anna
"	24	8	Bethany	Beattie
Lapland Longspur	2	6	Alexander	Zebehazys
"	24	11	Bethany	Beattie
Snow Bunting	2	60	Alexander	Zebehazys
"	6	150	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	18	275	Rushford	Lazarczyk, Rosche
"	24	150	Bethany	Beattie
"	24	150	Dunkirk Airport	Neveu
Red-w. Blackbird	20	20	Lockport	Pawlicki, Poczewinskis
Rusty Blackbird	11, 30	3, 3	Buckhorn I. SP	Sharon
"	26	1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	26	1	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
Common Grackle	14	2	Allegany Twp.	Baird (Catt Co. CBC)
"	18	1 male	Allen	Lazarczyk, Rosche
"	27	1	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki
Brown-head. Cowbird	5	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	21	8	Buffalo	Rising et al (CBC)
White-w. Crossbill	4; 5; 9	20; 35; 32	Amherst	Pawlicki; Watson; Lazarczyk
"	16	24	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson, Pawlicki
"	30	20	Lancaster	Morgante et al
"	5 - 27	2 - 15	Throughout WNY	9 other reports
Common Redpoll	27	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Rising et al (CBC)
Pine Siskin	1	15 max	Wilson (f)	Potter, D'Anna
"	14	88	Allegany Twp.	Baird (Catt Co. CBC)
"	28	20	Hamburg	Rising et al (CBC)
"	29	15	Sheridan	Neveu
"	6 - 31	1 - 10	Throughout WNY	5 other reports
<hr/>				
<u>Addenda (2008):</u>	<u>Year/Day</u>			
Green-winged Teal	Jan 2	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Dart, Beattie
* <u>Gyr Falcon</u>	Feb 28	1 dark	Fort Erie (Ont)	Jacklin et al
* <u>Western Sandpiper</u>	July 20	1 ad	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Boustead
Chimney Swift	Apr 20	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Yellow-b. Flycatcher	Sep 12	1	Williamsville	Salembier
* <u>Say's Phoebe</u>	Oct 22	1	Batavia WWTP	Carlsons
Common Raven	Jan 1-27	2	Bethany	Beattie
Pine Warbler	June 30	1	Allegany SP	Hess
Lapland Longspur	Jan 24	2	E. Bethany	Beattie
Snow Bunting	Jan 23	240	E. Bethany	Beattie, Dart
* <u>Dickcissel</u>	Aug 31	1	Farmersville Station	Hollister
Baltimore Oriole	Sep 6	3	Williamsville	Salembier
<u>Addenda (2007):</u>				
<u>Golden Eagle</u>	May 5	1	Bennington	Barabasz
<u>Errata (2008):</u>				
Delete				
Yellow-b. Flycatcher	June 5	1	Bethany	Beattie

Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded this year: 284

Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for this month + addenda 2008: 3+4

Total for the year 2008 + addenda 2008: 291

Statisticians Note Regarding Addenda and the Year (2008) in Review

Mike Morgante

There are notable sightings in the 2008 addenda including four species not previously recorded for the year (Gyr-falcon, Western Sandpiper, Say's Phoebe, and Dickcissel).

The Say's Phoebe is especially noteworthy as it is a first occurrence for the B.O.S. study area. While birding at Batavia WWTP on October 22, Brad and Bill Carlson flushed a bird that landed on the perimeter fencing. They viewed the bird as it moved up and down the fence for ~20 minutes before it was lost from view and concluded the identification as Say's Phoebe. Repeated searches of the area that afternoon and the next day did not result in additional sightings. Brad's verification report indicated he is familiar with this western species, including numerous sightings in the previous month, and he documented field marks that distinguish it from Vermilion Flycatcher, which can be similar in appearance in fall. With acceptance of this verification report, there are now 389 species, 22 recognizable subspecies, and two named hybrids on the official B.O.S. list. This is the first new species addition since the eighth edition of the Date Guide was issued in 2006.

A dark phase Gyrfalcon was identified by Marcie Jacklin, Tim Seburn, Rick Stockton, and Rob Eberly. They initially found the bird sitting on the ice near the Lake Erie ice boom and also observed it in flight. We received an excellent verification report including numerous photographs from Ian Boustead of an adult Western Sandpiper that he found at Rock Point Provincial Park while he was visiting from England in July. The Dickcissel was found on the last day of August in the unexpected location of Farmersville Station, Cattaraugus County by Christopher Hollister.

With the inclusion of these species, a total of 291 species, subspecies, and named hybrids were recorded for 2008, matching the 2007 total. The only species on the B.O.S. field checklist that were *not* recorded in 2008 include: Snowy Egret, Wilson's Phalarope, Barn Owl, "Lawrence's" Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Henslow's Sparrow. Besides the first occurrence of Say's Phoebe (above), there were accepted records for some very rare species in 2008 including: Common Eider, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Curlew Sandpiper, Ross's Gull, Mew Gull, Slaty-backed Gull (3rd ever), White-winged Dove (2nd ever), Cave Swallow, and Blue Grosbeak.

Tim Baird and I would like to thank all of the members and non-members that submitted sightings in this past year. Simply put, your contributions make up the noteworthy records and the ornithological record of the Society. We also owe sincere gratitude to the many hours of time that Bruce Chilton puts in as the Compiler; few are likely aware of the time commitment necessary to conduct the work of that position. We appreciate the efforts of several individuals (Willie D'Anna, Bill Watson, Jim Pawlicki, Kayo Roy, and Gerry Rising) that provided assistance in requesting

and/or obtaining verification reports and sightings from birders not familiar with the B.O.S. noteworthy records. We'd like to recognize the guidance that Bob Andrie and Fran Rew gave us when we took over as Statisticians and the assistance that Willie D'Anna provided at our request on a few challenging verification report reviews. Additionally, we appreciate the members that notified us of omissions or corrections to the noteworthy records.

As for verification report reviews for 2008, approximately 92% of the reports were accepted, including multiple verification reports for the same bird (e.g. five reports for the same Ross's Gull). We note that the primary reason for reports not accepted was the description lacked enough detail to confidently eliminate all other species. We have discussed the idea of notifying observers whether their verification reports were accepted or not; however, we recognize that it would take additional effort to the considerable time that is already spent. We also did not receive any questions this year about verification reports that were not accepted; therefore, it seems that observers are comfortable in waiting to read *The Prothonotary* to see if their reports were accepted or not. If you have any thoughts on this topic, we'd be interested to hear them.

Last winter, Fran Rew was delighted to clear out some much needed space in her basement by passing several large boxes of historical records, monthly noteworthy summary packets, and other miscellaneous items collected in their many years as Statisticians. She advised Tim and me that only about once or twice a year does someone make a request that requires searching the boxes. Sure enough, we had two requests this year. Kayo Roy asked if we could find an April 28, 1957 verification report for Bewick's Wren at Morgan's Point, Ontario by Harold Axtell and Robert Andrie as it was never reviewed by the Ontario Bird Records Committee (OBRC) and would become a first record for Ontario if considered acceptable. Kayo also sought documentation of a Townsend's Solitaire from November 1983 in Fonthill, Ontario that would be a first for the Niagara region of Ontario if accepted by OBRC. Tim was able to quickly find these records for Kayo. Despite these rare, but useful, requests for information, we feel that B.O.S. should look into better archiving of historical records than keeping them in boxes in the homes of the statisticians. The New York State Ornithological Association recently went through an electronic archiving of historical paperwork and may have some advice to offer. As Tim and I communicate through e-mail, all 2008 verification reports were obtained or scanned electronically. These are a starting point for a separate electronic archive of records.

Lastly, I set up an Excel spreadsheet with all of the species, subspecies, and named hybrids included in the B.O.S. Date Guide for the purpose of tracking first arrivals. It proved to be very useful to track species occurrences throughout the year. If you would like to get a copy of the spreadsheet for your own use, please let me know and I can e-mail a copy to you.

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March – April Calendar

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<http://www.bosbirding.org/>



Buffalo-Niagara Region
Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

2009 BOS Grant Applications Due
April 1st

<http://www.bosbirding.org/grants.htm>

TODAY. BOS Renewal Deadline. Individual membership US \$20 to: Karen Landau, Membership Chair, 9195 State Road, Colden, NY 14033-9626

Mar. 1 - May 15: Hamburg Hawkwatch at Lakeside Memorial Park in Hamburg (off Camp Rd. between Routes 5 & 20). Generally 10 AM - 3 PM, "weather permitting". Weekday volunteers needed! Contact Jim Landau for additional info (941-3869 or kjlandau@localnet.com).

Mar. 8: Sunday. Niagara County, New York, Owl Trip. Meet at 1:00 PM near the Save-a-Lot entrance at the Summit Park Mall on Williams Road just south of Niagara Falls Blvd. in the Town of Wheatfield. Leader: Chuck Rosenberg (655-0231, cprosenb@roadrunner.com, cell phone: 622-3278).

Mar. 11: BOS Meeting will take place in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science at 7:00 PM. Mike Morgante will present an overview of the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas-results.

Mar. 28: Saturday. Lake Ontario Plain Field Trip for early spring migrants. Leader: Willie D'Anna 751-3637 or dannapotter@roadrunner.com. Meet at 8 a.m. at Tops Market in Wright's Corners. This is on the east side of Route 78 at Route 104, north of Lockport.

Apr. 1: 2009 BOS Grant Deadline. Applications can be downloaded at <http://www.bosbirding.org/grants.htm>. Submit applications to Lynne Landon, 139 Jackson St., Youngstown, NY 14174; Email: llandon@daemen.edu.

Apr. 8: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Students of the Canisius College Computational Ecology Research Team will present talks and posters on their avian research. The students are cosponsored by Dr. Sara Morris, Professor of Biology, and Dr. David Sheets, Professor of Physics, at Canisius College.

Apr. 19: April Bird Count: All BOS members should participate. Contact Coordinator: Mike Hamilton (881-6709 or mhsr@wzrd.com).

Apr. 29: 2009 Vaughan Lecture. Dr. Lindsey Walters of Canisius College "Mate quality and parenting in birds: Is a sexy mate worth more effort?"

The PROTHONOTARY

Published Monthly by the

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Volume 74, No. 12 December, 2008

THE MONTH: November

Gerry Rising

(I dedicate this column to our colleague, Joe Thill)

November was another of those split months, the first half warm with what Steve McLaughlin of the Buffalo Weather Bureau called "extraordinary Indian Summer weather," 6° above average; the last half cold, 6° below average. These balanced to make the month's overall average, 39.9° only 0.3° below normal. Precipitation, 3.3 inches, and the 6.2 inches of snow were each only about half the average for the month. In the Southern Tier the picture was very different with over 60 inches of snowfall allowing ski resorts to open late in the month.

The most striking feature of this month was early evidence of a significant incursion of northern finches accompanied by a few Snowy Owls. The two most evident finches were White-winged Crossbills and Pine Siskins but a Common Redpoll was found in Four Mile Creek SP on the 2nd and a Pine Grosbeak in Bennington on the 16th. The numbers of crossbills were quite remarkable: the maxima 120 on the 23rd in Wilson and 100 there six days later.

Siskins also appeared in numbers with an even more remarkable 240 at Four Mile Creek on the 2nd. Their appearance reminded me of one of my first years birding in the late 1930s when these "tiny sparrows" with yellow in their wings appeared throughout my suburban Rochester neighborhood. Hesitantly I approached one of the area's senior birders to ask if it was possible that I was seeing siskins. He laughed and said, "How can you miss them? They're everywhere."

Among records of expected winter visitors were the two

Snowy Owl reports were from Buffalo on the 11th and the Chautauqua Airport on the 23rd. A few Rough-legged Hawks were recorded through the month and there were four widely separated

reports of Northern Shrikes late during the last ten days. And good-sized flocks of Snow Buntings in mid-month were joined by a few longspurs.

I am pleased to note small flocks of black ducks: 24 at Batavia WWTP on the 12th and 31 at the Lake Erie mouth



(upper) Purple Sandpiper photographed by Jim Pawlicki at Bird Island Pier on November 28, 2008 and (lower) a Summer Tanager photographed by Darrell Stevens at Delaware Park on November 11, 2008.

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of Silver Creek on the 31st. Seventy years ago this was the most common waterfowl species; today we rarely see more than two or three at a time. Ruddy Ducks have gone in the opposite direction: I recall them as uncommon until birders discovered the Batavia Treatment Plant about ten years ago. This year's 154 there on the 12th is not an unusual record, but now we have another location with 371 recorded in Dayton on the previous day. As has become usual, a few Eared Grebes appeared in Batavia as well. Two other waterfowl species are worth special comment: a Brant was seen from Fort Niagara on the 13th and a Trumpeter Swan, presumably one of those half-tame birds introduced in Canada by Lumsden, was recorded at Clay Pond on the 25th.

Three interesting gull species and another sea bird joined the more common gulls: a Sabine's Gull was recorded from

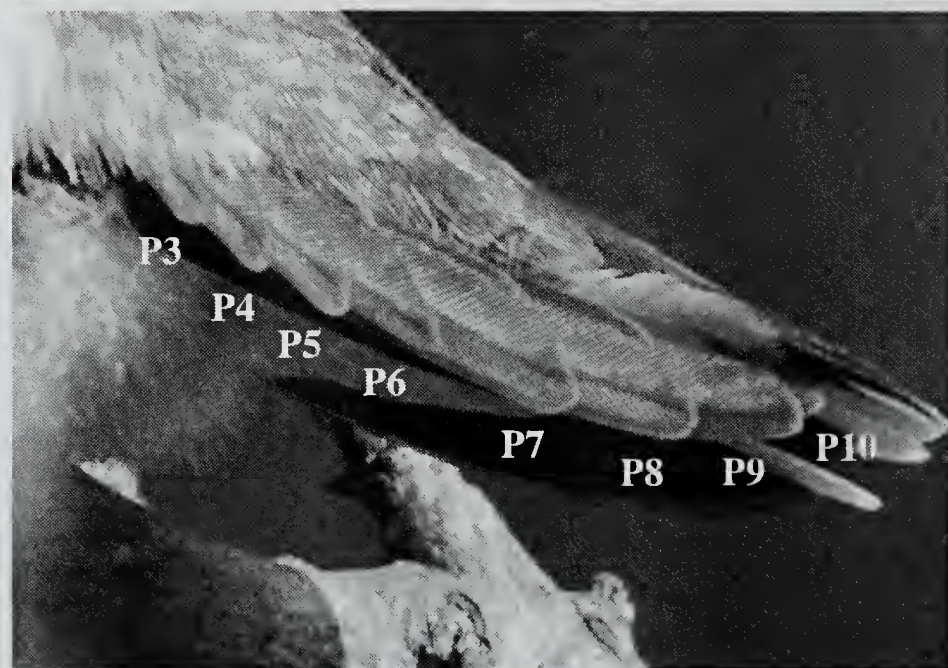
Squaw Island and at Fort Erie on the 1st; it is not clear that this was the same bird. On that same day a 2nd winter Black-legged Kittiwake was recorded in Buffalo. Later in the month a 2nd winter California Gull appeared at the Adam Beck on the 23rd and was recorded there again on the 30th. And on the 13th a Northern Gannet was observed where Lake Erie enters the Niagara River. More regular now among the thousands of Bonaparte's Gulls, a few Little Gulls were seen.

A late hummingbird at an Orchard Park feeder occasioned much interest. This is the time of year when odd western species turn up. A detailed examination of photographs by Pawlicki and others finally determined that it was a first year female Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Pawlicki's verification report sets a standard to which few of us can aspire. Here are a few sentences from it: "The lack of rufous coloration in the tail feathers eliminates *Selasphorus* species such as Rufous, Allen's, and Broad-tailed.... The inner primaries (P1-P6) were rather thin with angled-tips (see photos) and taken as a whole were proportionately thinner and shorter than the outer primaries (P7-P10), and

separated from them by a wide break between P6 and P7 when stacked (see photos). This clearly eliminates *Calypte* Hummingbirds such as Anna's and Costa's which have proportionately wider and longer inner primaries with equal gaps between all of the stacked primaries."

After a head's up from Rochester birders that a small group of Cave Swallows was headed west along the Lake Ontario shore, D'Anna observed an estimated 14 to 22 at Wilson on the 3rd.

On the 11th I received an email from Darrell Stevens, an occasional Buffalo birder, who claimed to have photographed a Summer Tanager in Delaware Park. I was ready to discourage him - I get calls claiming such oddities as Ivory-billed Woodpeckers - until I looked at his attached photograph. Indeed the photo made clear that it was this species. Stevens was good enough to provide a verification report together with his photos and Hess further confirmed this record with a visit the next day.



Ruby-throated Hummingbird (Female; Hatch Year) photographed by Jim Pawlicki at an Orchard Park feeder on November 14, 2008.

Winston William Brockner

Frances Rew



Winston Brockner had been a member of the Buffalo Ornithological Society for 76 years at the time of his death on November 19, 2008. Winston, sometimes known as "Win" or "Bill", was born in Buffalo on July 22, 1915, and lived here until 1965 when he and his wife, Sylvia Booth, moved to Evergreen, Colorado where he resided for the rest of his life.

The Buffalo Ornithological Society was barely four years old when Winston became a member in 1932. He was 16 years old and had been birding for several years. When he was 11 or 12 and while birding in Delaware Park, he met Harold Mitchell and Clark Beardslee, two of the gentlemen who would soon be founding the B.O.S. They were impressed with his enthusiasm for bird study, encouraged him and were soon including him on their birding expeditions. On one of these trips in the mid-1920's Winston saw his first Cardinal, an extremely rare bird in this area at the time and he loved to tell the story of it: Dr. A.E. Perkins of the Gowanda State Hospital had called Harold Mitchell to report that a Cardinal was visiting her feeder. A trip was quickly organized and all interested, including Winston, went to Gowanda and were rewarded by seeing this rare and beautiful bird. They were still enjoying their sighting when an older teenager arrived on his bicycle, having ridden over from Jamestown. The young man was Roger Tory Peterson who also logged his first Cardinal. These boys became lifelong friends. Winston admitted that he reminded Roger a few times of which boy saw the Cardinal first. They met often at meetings of the A.O.U., A.B.A., Nature Conservancy, etc. and it was Roger who convinced Win that he should keep a life list of birds he saw in the A.O.U. area. Winston's list stands at 754, which is among the top 100 lists in the country.

As a child, Winston frequented the Buffalo Science Museum where he always checked out the "Bird of the Month" case. In this exhibit he first saw the Museum's mounted pair of Ivory-Billed Woodpeckers which captivated and inspired him. He meant to see that bird and in later life made several trips to its haunts including the Big Thicket of Texas to no avail. So many of his friends and acquaintances knew of his interest that he received more

than 50 phone calls when the report came in of the appearance of the Ivory Billed Woodpecker in Arkansas.

Although Winston was too young to have been a founder of the B.O.S. he and his close friend Bill Vaughan, were considered builders of the Society during the decades from 1930-1970. He served as President in 1947.

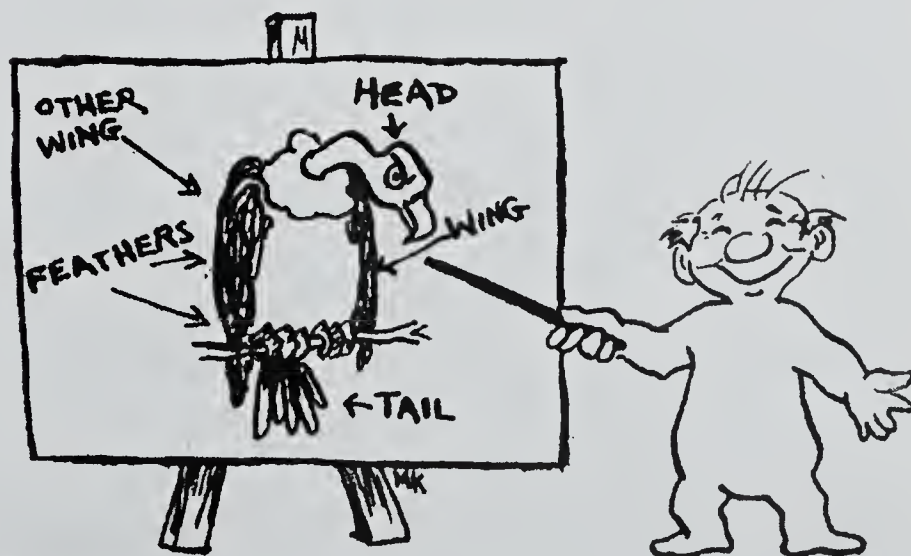
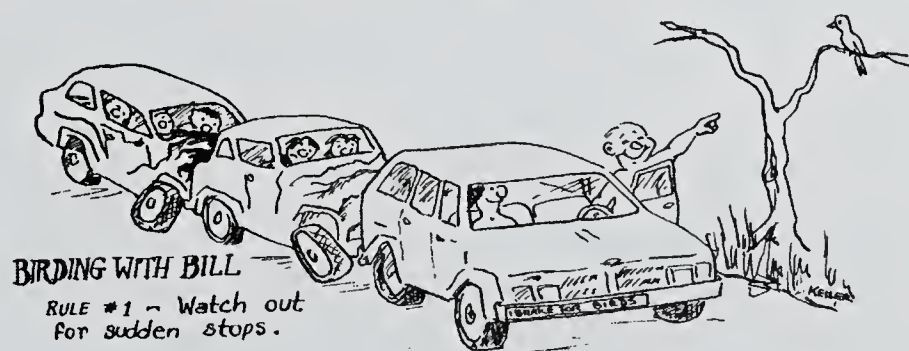
Winston served in the U.S. Army, 101st Infantry Division, in North Africa and Italy from 1943-1945. Since there were no field guides for these areas, Winston wrote detailed descriptions of the birds he saw and sent them to Sylvia who identified them from books in the Research Library of the Museum where she worked.

As a strong believer in Nature Preserves, Winston was a Charter Member of the Nature Sanctuary Society of Western New York and the Nature Conservancy. He was co-founder and a president of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs (now NYSOA). In 1968 he and Sylvia founded the Evergreen Naturalists' Audubon Society. Winston served as President, wrote a monthly bird column, and kept a daily bird count at Evergreen Lake.

Winston was truly a man who never met a stranger, never forgot a friend, never failed to greet everyone along the trail with a cheerful word and was never, ever without a smile. His many friends are saddened by his death, but as they remember him, they will surely return his smile.

You can read more about Winston Brockner's life at: http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_11085089, download the January/February issue of The Dipper at: <http://www.dipper.org>, or blog at: <http://denver.yourhub.com/Evergreen/Blogs/About-Town/Blog~556226.aspx>.

Bill Brockner cartoons by Mildred Keiser



NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Eighth Edition - Revised 2007) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

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* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration.

(f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicates nest(s). (yg) Indicates young.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

<u>Species</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Snow Goose	5, 7	5 white	Dayton	Neveu
Cackling Goose	7	1	Freedom	Pawlicki, Watson
"	9	1	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki
"	28	1	Grand I.	Lazarczyk
"	28	5	Batavia WWTP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	28	10	Oakfield	Yoerg, Henderson
"	30	1	Chippawa (Ont)	Pawlicki, Tozer, Iron
Brant	13	1	Fort Niagara SP	Hannah
Mute Swan	15	3 ad + 2 juv	Roosevelt Beach	Lazarczyk
"	30	5	Olcott	Yoerg, Henderson
<u>Trumpeter Swan</u>	25	1	Clay Pond WMA	Berry
Tundra Swan	10F, 21	8, 175	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	11	15	Buffalo Airport	Yoerg
"	17	31	Salamanca	Baird
"	22; 26	30; 39	Chautauqua Lake	Berry; Pawlicki, Neveu
"	26	11	Pomfret	Neveu
"	28	10	Oak Orchard WMA	Yoerg
"	30	1	Niagara River (Ont)	Tozer, Iron
Wood Duck	1	4	Sinking Ponds NS	Mogante
"	8	1	Sherman	Neveu
"	15	2	Sheridan	Neveu
American Black Duck	12	24	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	29	31	Mouth of Silver Creek	Neveu
Northern Shoveler	4; 12	65; 73	Batavia WWTP	Beattie, Stone; Watson
"	12	4	North Harmony	Neveu
Northern Pintail	12	43	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	30	6	Point Abino (Ont)	Jacklin, Seburn
Green-winged Teal	6	21	Tift N.P.	Watson
Ring-necked Duck	5	72	Dayton	Neveu
"	26	150	Chautauqua Lake	Pawlicki, Neveu
Surf Scoter	29	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Jacklin, Seburn
White-winged Scoter	1	5	Squaw I.	Watson
"	13	2	LaSalle Park	Watson
"	29	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Lazarczyk; Jacklin et al
Black Scoter	2	9	Wilson	D'Anna
"	9	1	Bird I. Pier	Yoerg
"	9; 16	5; 13	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki; D'Anna, Potter
"	26	1	Barcelona Harbor	Pawlicki, Neveu
"	29	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Jacklin, Seburn

<u>Species</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Long-tailed Duck	2	240	Wilson	D'Anna
Bufflehead	10	107	Wilson	D'Anna
"	10	483	Sheridan	Neveu
"	12; 26	237; 255	Chautauqua Lake	Neveu
"	13	600	LaSalle Park	Watson
Common Goldeneye	6, 10	57, 86	Sheridan	Neveu
"	27	50	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
Hooded Merganser	5	159	Dayton	Neveu
"	12	485	North Harmony	Neveu
"	22; 26	75; 596	Chautauqua Lake	Berry; Pawlicki, Neveu
"	25	91	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Common Merganser	5	232	Dayton	Neveu
Red-br. Merganser	2, 9	910, 1250	Wilson	D'Anna
Ruddy Duck	4; 12	75; 154	Batavia WWTP	Beattie, Stone; Watson
"	7, 11	171, 371	Dayton	Neveu
"	22	27	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
Red-throated Loon	2	1	Fort Niagara SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	9	148	Wilson	D'Anna, Pawlicki
"	29	3	Niag.-on-the-Lake (Ont)	DiLabio
"	30	2	Olcott	Yoerg, Henderson
Common Loon	12	12	Chautauqua Lake	Neveu
"	30	1 juv	Chippawa (Ont)	Tozer, Iron
Pied-billed Grebe	12	84	Celeron	Neveu
"	30	1	Dufferin Is. (Ont)	Tozer, Iron
Horned Grebe	21, 22	91, 66	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Red-necked Grebe	2, 9	3, 2	Wilson	D'Anna
"	9	2	Olcott	D'Anna
"	20	1	Batavia WWTP	Zebehazys
"	23	1	Port Weller (Ont)	Roy, Ahara, S. Watson
Eared Grebe	<u>11; 12</u>	3	Batavia WWTP	Zebehazys; Watson
* Northern Gannet	13	1	Squaw I.	Pawlicki
D.-crested Cormorant	11	110	LaSalle Park	Hess
Great Egret	1	2	Fort Erie (Ont)	Pawlicki, Watson
"	6	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	7L	1	Cuba Lake	Watson, Pawlicki
Turkey Vulture	13	25	Lewiston	Landon
Osprey	5-13L	1	Clarence	Mark Morgante
"	8	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Bald Eagle	1	1 ad	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	9	1 ad	Allegany SP	Baird
"	11	3	Iroquois NWR	S&T O'Donnell
"	11, 24	2 ad	Dayton	Neveu
"	22, 25	2 ad, 1 juv	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	22; 26	1; 1 imm	Chautauqua Lake	Berry; Pawlicki, Neveu
Red-shouldered Hawk	12	1	Chautauqua	Neveu
Rough-legged Hawk	2	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	5, 8	3, 1	Dunkirk Airport	Neveu
"	16	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	24	1	South Dayton	Neveu
"	30	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Jacklin, Seburn
Merlin	10	2	UB south campus	Yoerg
Peregrine Falcon	1	2	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	2; 10; 27	2; 1; 1	N. Grand I. bridge	Yoerg; Landon; Lazarczyk
"	7	1	Glenwood	Schultz

<u>Species</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	9	1	Squaw I.	Yoerg
"	23	1 ad	Niagara Falls	D'Anna, Potter
"	28	1	Tonawanda	Pawlicki
American Coot	26	463	Chautauqua Lake	Pawlicki, Neveu
Killdeer	16	13	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
Sanderling	8L	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Purple Sandpiper	28F	2	Buffalo	Pawlicki
Dunlin	9, 16	1, 3	Wilson	D'Anna et al
"	13	1	Buffalo	Pawlicki
Wilson's Snipe	14	1	Chautauqua	Berry
American Woodcock	7	1	Salamanca	Baird
"	15	1	Arcade	Fox
Little Gull	1; 16	3; 2	Niag.-on-the-Lake (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki; Yoerg
"	2, 11	2, 4	Lewiston	Potter, D'Anna
"	8	2	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna
"	10; 11	2; 3	Niagara Falls	Pawlicki et al; D'Anna
Bonaparte's Gull	1; 29	2860; 5197	Niag.-on-the-Lake (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki; DiLabio
"	1	5000	Niagara River	Pawlicki, Watson
"	10	3000	Goat I.	Pawlicki, Salembier
* <u>California Gull</u>	23, 30	1 (2 nd w)	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	D'Anna et al
"	30	1 (2 nd w)	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	Pawlicki, D'Anna et al
Herring Gull	7	1600	Cuba Lake	Watson, Pawlicki
Iceland Gull	11F; 30	1; 8	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	Potter, D'Anna; Tozer, Iron
"	23	1	Niagara Falls	Potter, D'Anna
Lesser Black-b. Gull	1	7	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Pawlicki, Watson
"	7	3	Cuba Lake	Watson, Pawlicki
"	10	1	Goat I.	Pawlicki, Salembier
"	11	7	Niagara Falls	D'Anna, Potter
"	30	7	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	Tozer, Iron
Glaucous Gull	22F	1	Wilson Harbor	Pawlicki
"	23	1	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	D'Anna, Potter
"	23	1	Niagara Falls	D'Anna, Potter
"	30	2	Chippawa (Ont)	Tozer, Iron
Sabine's Gull	1	1 juv	Squaw I.	Watson, Pawlicki, Salembier
"	1	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	D'Anna, Jacklin et al
Black-leg. Kittiwake	16F, 28	1 (2 nd w)	Buffalo	Pawlicki et al
Common Tern	1	3	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	16	1	Hamburg	Pawlicki, Wheeler
"	16	2	LaSalle Park	Pawlicki, Wheeler et al
Snowy Owl	11F	1	Buffalo	Connare
"	23	1	Chautauqua Airport	Berry, Sundell
Ruby-t. Hummingbird	<u>14</u>	1	Orchard Park	Pawlicki et al
"	<u>15, 18</u>	1	Orchard Park	D'Anna et al
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	12	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	14	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	23	1 imm	Allegany SP	Baird
Northern Shrike	20	1	Batavia WWTP	Zebehazys
"	28	1	Wainfleet (Ont)	R&L Goodridge
"	30	1	Somerset	D&D Suggs
"	30	2	Allegany SP	Baird
Common Raven	7	3	West Almond	Watson, Pawlicki
"	9, 23	2, 1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	10	2	Colden	Landau
"	12	2	Alfred	Brooks

<u>Species</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	20	1	Bethany	Beattie
N. Rough-w. Swallow	1; 11L	23; 5	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson et al; D'Anna
* <u>Cave Swallow</u>	3	14-22	Wilson	D'Anna et al
Carolina Wren	1 - 30	1	Orchard Park (f)	Zebehazys
"	3 - 25	1 - 2	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	5 - 27	1 - 2	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	6	2	Tifft NP	Watson
"	14, 28	1, 1	Bethany	Beattie
Winter Wren	3 - 19	2 - 3	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	28	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Pawlicki
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	4, 8	3, 1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	23	1	Allegany SP	Baird
Eastern Bluebird	2 - 23	2 - 5	Bethany	Beattie
"	4	6	Eden	Andrle
"	19, 21	11, 6	Dunkirk Airport	Neveu
"	23	2	Allegany SP	Baird
Hermit Thrush	1	1	Queenston (Ont)	Pawlicki, Watson
"	23	2	Alfred	Brooks
Gray Catbird	23	1	Porter	Suggs
Northern Mockingbird	1, 8	1	Dunkirk	Neveu
"	29	1	Tifft NP	Pawlicki, Salembier
American Pipit	1	2	Squaw I.	Pawlicki, Watson et al
"	20	6	Alexander	Zebehazys
"	21	12	Pomfret	Lazarczyk, Smith
"	25	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Yellow-r. Warbler	6, 12	10, 2	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	12	4	Iroquois NWR	Watson
<u>Summer Tanager</u>	11	1	Delaware Park	Stevens
"	12	1	Delaware Park	Hess
Eastern Towhee	6	1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
Chipping Sparrow	6	2	Amherst SP	Salembier, Pawlicki
Field Sparrow	1	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Pawlicki, Watson
Fox Sparrow	1	2	Queenston (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	4; 6	2; 1	Amherst SP	Salembier et al
"	6	2	Wilson (f)	Potter, D'Anna
"	21	2	Portland	Mosher
"	21	1	R T Peterson Institute	Berry
Lapland Longspur	16	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	20	5	Porter	S&T O'Donnell et al
Snow Bunting	9	98	Wilson	D'Anna, Pawlicki
"	10	81	Pt. Gratiot	Neveu
"	19	250	Bethany	Dart, Beattie
"	20	400	Porter	S&T O'Donnell et al
"	28	25	Batavia WWTP	Yoerg, Henderson
Red-w. Blackbird	12	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	20	5	Eden	Andrle
Eastern Meadowlark	18	2	South Dayton	Neveu
Rusty Blackbird	11	6	Batavia WWTP	Zebehazys
Common Grackle	5	15	Tonawanda	Hess
"	14, 25	1, 1	Williamsville	Salembier
Pine Grosbeak	16F	1	Bennington	Fox
Purple Finch	1	2	Alfred	Brooks
White-w. Crossbill	3F	7	Wilson Cemetery	Potter, D'Anna
"	11	11	Iroquois NWR	S&T O'Donnell

<u>Species</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	14	5	Bethany	Beattie
"	16	5	Bennington	Fox
"	22; 23	90; 120	Wilson Cemetery	Pawlicki et al; Suggs
"	22; 23	95; 75	Porter	Pawlicki; Suggs
"	23	45	Allegany SP	Baird
"	23	40	Orchard Park	Zebehazys, Morgante
"	24	50	Amherst	Pawlicki, Salembier
"	25	54	Amherst SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
"	25; 28	47; 55	Wheatfield	Pawlicki; Hess
"	28	20	Oak Orchard WMA	Yoerg
"	29	100	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	30	2	Chippawa (Ont)	DiLabio
"	23 - 30	2 - 50	Throughout WNY	11 other records
Common Redpoll	2F	3	Four Mile Creek SP	Yoerg, Henderson
Pine Siskin	1	82	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Pawlicki, Watson
"	2	240	Four Mile Creek SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	7	100	Arkwright	Neveu
"	23	100	Allegany SP	Baird
"	1 - 29	2 - 30	Throughout WNY	15 other records

Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded this year: 281

Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for this month: 003

Total for the year 2008: 284

Statisticians' Note I: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision.

Statisticians' Note II: We are asking members of the BOS and any other birders who send in reports to the BOS to advise us as soon as they can of any possible errors in regard to records published in the Prothonotary, particularly in the Noteworthy Records so that we can make any necessary changes as soon as appropriate.

ADDENDUM: PROTHONOTARY, VOLUME 74, NO. 11 NOVEMBER, 2008, PAGE102.

REPLACE "INDIVIDUALS SPECIES SINCE 1935" AND "INDIVIDUAL SPECIES SINCE 1999" WITH THE FOLLOWING:

INDIVIDUAL SPECIES SINCE 1935:

Highest count since 1935 (x the average of the previous 72 years): Trumpeter Swan, 2 (66.7x); Common Merganser 358 (8.4x); Peregrine Falcon, 4 (12.1x); Killdeer, 1427 (2.5x); Eastern Screech-Owl, 23 (4.3x); Pileated Woodpecker, 32 (4.4x); Northern Shrike, 1 (10x); Northern Cardinal, 443 (2.5x). *Total of 8 species*

Lowest count since 1935 (% of the average of the previous 72 years): None

INDIVIDUAL SPECIES SINCE 1999:

Highest count in past decade (x the average of the previous 10 years): Trumpeter Swan, 2 (10x); Black Scoter, 25 (83.3x); Hooded Merganser, 28 (2x); Common Merganser, 358 (2.3x); Ring-necked Pheasant, 21 (1.5x); Peregrine Falcon, 4 (2.4x); Killdeer, 1427 (2.4x); Eastern Screech-Owl, 23 (2x); Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 2 (10x); Pileated Woodpecker, 32 (2x); Chestnut-sided Warbler, 1 (2x); Field Sparrow, 184 (1.9x); Northern Cardinal, 443 (1.3x); Pine Siskin, 231 (22x). *Total of 14 species*

Lowest count in past decade (average number seen during the previous decade): Mallard, 2163 (3938); Northern Shoveler, 46 (198); Green-winged Teal, 114 (262); Redhead, 1 (18); Ring-necked Duck, 12 (180); White-winged Scoter, 34 (238); Northern Harrier, 17 (38); American Kestrel, 26 (60); Wilson's Snipe, 1 (17); Bonaparte's Gull, 101 (495); Ring-billed Gull, 8153 (11455); Rock Pigeon, 1793 (2311); Red-winged Blackbird, 7573 (14738); Rusty Blackbird, 187 (66); Common Grackle, 1960 (1692); House Finch, 332 (554). *Total of 16 species*

(Explanatory Note: Previously I have been comparing count numbers to the average of the current number of counts since 1935 and to the current decade. It has been pointed out to me that it makes more sense to compare count numbers to the the averages of all previous counts since 1935 and to the previous decade. This addendum follows the latter approach.)

Short-eared Owl Sightings in Ontario

Hazel Wheeler

As part of an ongoing study, Bird Studies Canada is looking for the help of local birders to track Short-eared Owls on their Ontario wintering grounds. Southern Ontario hosts a number of owl "hotspots", such as Fisherville in Haldimand County, which regularly records the most Short-eared Owls in North America during their Christmas Bird Count. Though some well-established winter roosts are known, identifying additional areas supporting concentrations of wintering owls will help direct future conservation efforts.

We are asking for Short-eared Owl sightings with the following information: Observer name, Date and time of sighting, Habitat (grassy field, pasture, marsh, etc.), Number of birds seen, Behaviour (flying, perching, hunting), Detailed location of sighting, including nearest town.

We are also looking for someone to periodically monitor at known roost sites. If you are interested in participating, or if you see a Short-eared Owl in Ontario, or would just like some more information, please contact: Hazel Wheeler, Email: hwheeler@birdscanada.org, Phone: 1-888-448-2473 Ext. 165, Website: <http://www.birdscanada.org/>

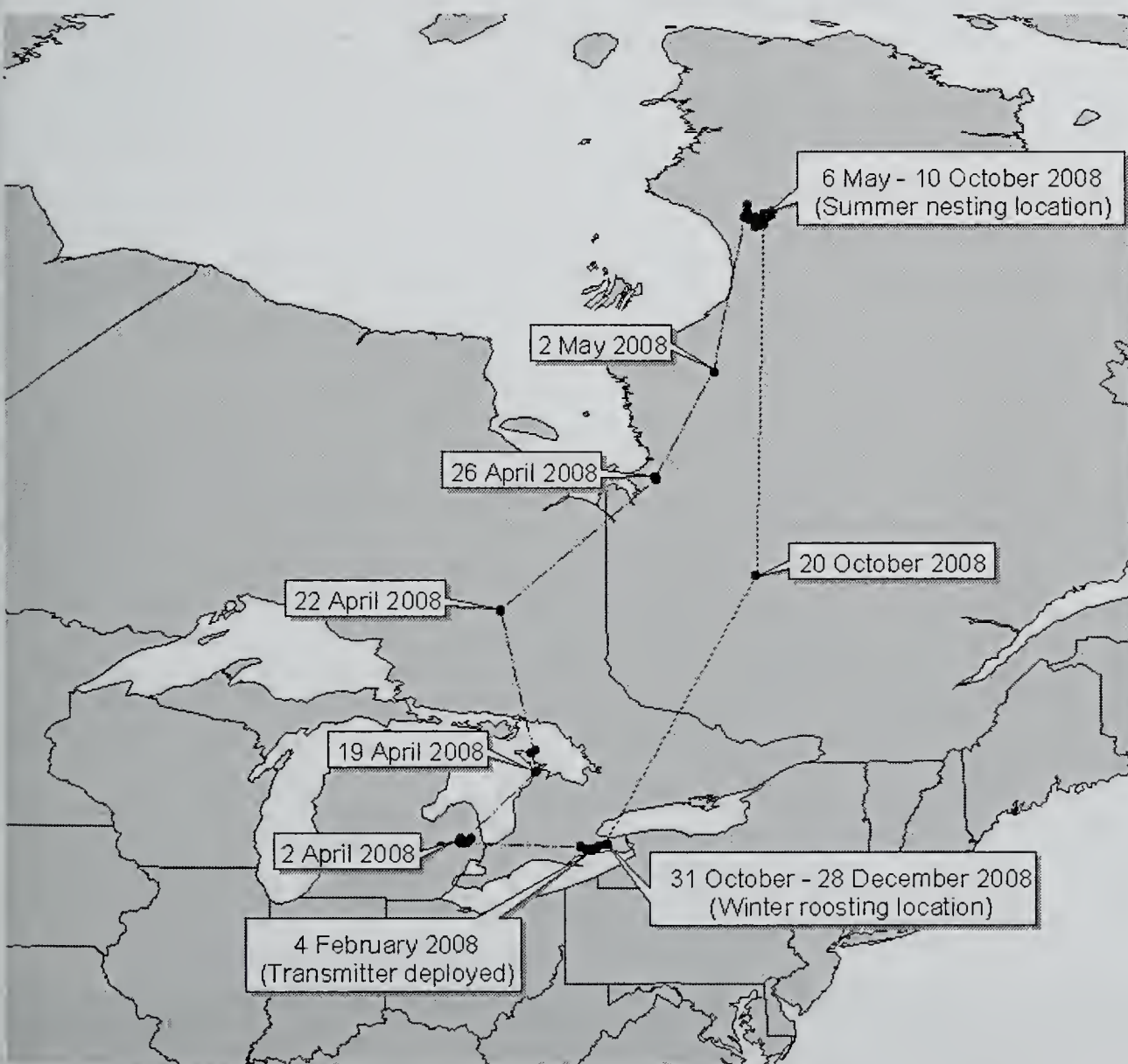
The Short-eared Owl, *Asio flammeus*, is classified as a Species of Special Concern both provincially and federally, and has suffered extensive population declines over the

past 40 years. Destruction of native grasslands appears to have caused historic population declines throughout its North American range, while continued habitat loss further threaten the population. Short-eared Owls are nomadic, wandering extensively within their breeding and wintering ranges hunting for food, which makes population monitoring very difficult. Consequently, little is known about Short-eared Owl population size and trends.

Last winter a satellite transmitter was affixed to a Short-eared Owl roosting in Haldimand County, and following a long trip up the Quebec side of Hudson Bay this summer, she has returned to the area to roost. The latest satellite information is available through our Owl Tracker: www.bsc-eoc.org/research/speciesatrisk/seow/owl-tracker.html. A map below shows the periodic locations of this single owl during the year.

This winter we've focused on local movement and habitat use of Short-eared Owls. For those purposes we've had 2 birds tagged so far, with 3 more transmitters in waiting. We have an additional 2 satellite transmitters this year, and we'll be putting our efforts towards deploying them shortly.

The satellite efforts last year were sponsored by Shell Environmental Fund and surveys supported by OMNR-Species at Risk Stewardship Fund. Additional information can be found in a recently updated webpage for the Short-eared Owl at <http://www.bsc-eoc.org/research/speciesatrisk/seow/>



Map showing periodic locations of a single female Short-eared Owl equipped with a satellite transmitter. The northward migration of the bird is shown with a dash-dot line and the southward migration with a dotted line. This particular owl's migration in 2008 was in a general clockwise direction.

The owl was first trapped and equipped with a transmitter on February 4, 2008 at the location shown (Transmitter deployed). The bird spent most of February-March in the same general area. In late March she left the winter site and moved due west, and was located April 2 in Michigan, and then north, April 19 on the south shore of Lake Huron, April 26 south of Hudson Bay, and finally on May 6 at her summer nesting area, west of Hudson Bay (~40 days traveling from the winter to summer site). She was observed from May 6 - October 10, 2008 at the summer nesting site (5 months). She moved southward sometime after October 10 and was observed halfway to her wintering grounds on October 20 and arrived at the Ontario winter site on October 31 (~20 days traveling from the summer to winter site).

Overall, this particular bird spent about 5 months at her summer and winter sites and about 2 months in migration.

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February – April Calendar

BOS website

<http://www.bosbirding.org/>



Buffalo-Niagara Region
Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

2009 BOS Grant Applications Due
April 1st

<http://www.bosbirding.org/grants.htm>

NOTE: The by-laws amendment to go to one meeting per month was adopted.

Feb. 11: BOS Meeting in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science at 7:00 PM. Mike Hamilton will present on BOS October Counts.

Feb. 15. BOS Renewal Deadline. Individual membership US \$20 to: Karen Landau, Membership Chair, 9195 State Road, Colden, NY 14033-9626

Mar. 1 - May 15: Hamburg Hawkwatch at Lakeside Memorial Park in Hamburg (off Camp Rd. between Routes 5 & 20). Generally 10 AM - 3 PM, "weather permitting". Weekday volunteers needed! Contact Jim Landau for additional info (941-3869 or kjlandau@localnet.com).

Mar. 8: Sunday. Niagara County, New York, Owl Trip. Meet at 1:00 PM near the Save-a-Lot entrance at the Summit Park Mall on Williams Road just south of Niagara Falls Blvd. in the Town of Wheatfield. Leader: Chuck Rosenberg (655-0231, cprosenb@roadrunner.com, cell phone: 622-3278).

Mar. 11: BOS Meeting will take place in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science at 7:00 PM. Mike Morgante will present an overview of the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas results.

Mar. 28: Saturday. Lake Ontario Plain Field Trip for early spring migrants. Leader: Willie D'Anna 751-3637 or dannapotter@roadrunner.com. Meet at 8 a.m. at Tops Market in Wright's Corners. This is on the east side of Route 78 at Route 104, north of Lockport.

Apr. 1: 2009 BOS Grant Deadline. Applications can be downloaded at <http://www.bosbirding.org/grants.htm>. Submit applications to Lynne Landon, 139 Jackson St., Youngstown, NY 14174; Email: llandon@daemen.edu.

Apr. 29: 2009 Vaughan Lecture. Dr. Lindsey Walters of Canisius College "Mate quality and parenting in birds: Is a sexy mate worth more effort?"

Reminder: Time to Renew 2009 BOS Membership

Dues are payable in U.S. Funds to BOS. **Please respond by February 15, 2009** to: Karen Landau, Membership Chair, 9195 State Road, Colden, NY 14033-9626

The PROTHONOTARY

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THE MONTH: January

Jerry Lazarczyk



Eared Grebe photographed by Kayo Roy on Jan. 3, 2009 at Dufferin Islands, Niagara Falls (ON). See Month article for more details.

Back in August 2008 I reported that McLaughlin, the only Buffalo NOAA meteorologist that I ever listened to, was replaced. Well, it was for only that one month and he has since resumed his usual duties.

Paraphrasing Mr. McLaughlin: January 2009 was a harsh winter month. After a benign first few days, Western New York endured deep midwinter cold and daily snowfalls for just about the entire month of January. There were no huge storms, just the relentless “nickel and dime” snowfalls that kept roadways almost constantly slick and tested the patience of area residents. On the other hand, it continued one of the best winters for skiers in many years.

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13	Noteworthy Records <i>Bruce Chilton</i>
17	2009 Jan. Waterfowl Ct. <i>Jim Landau</i>
18	Bonaparte's Article Review <i>Bill Watson</i>
19	NYS January Big Day <i>Brendan Klick</i>
20	BOS Calendar

The average temperature of 18.5 degrees Fahrenheit was a full six degrees colder than normal. It was the coldest January in five years (since 2004) and the 16th coldest in the 139 years of record. The first week fea-



Spotted Towhee photographed by Jim Pawlicki on Jan. 22, 2009 in Port Colborne (ON). See Month article for more details.

tured average temperatures but 21 of the final 23 days of the month were colder than usual.

The “January Thaw” was indeed a brief one, just a few hours on the 23rd when the mercury rose to a monthly high of 42, no other day topped 35.

Precipitation was fairly light at 2.27 inches, nearly an inch shy of the norm. The only rain fell on the 7th with all the rest of the precipitation falling as snow.



Varied Thrush photographed by Bill Watson on Jan. 8, 2009 in Fenwick (ON).

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Snowfall at 30.6 inches was just a few inches above the normal of 26.1 but measurable amounts fell on 24 of the last 26 days. The largest fall was 7.1 inches on the 28th (a daily record) with 4 inches falling on the 10th. Otherwise small daily snowfalls were the rule. The season total of 86.1 inches was two feet above the normal through January.

There were few significant weather events during the month, just the daily grind of minor snows and frigid temperatures. One item of note was the light freezing rain and drizzle overnight on the 4-5th which caused extremely icy conditions and many injuries from falls. A messy storm on the 7-8th featured ice, rain and wet snow and a moderate general snowfall of 3-6 inches hit the area on the 10-11th. Severe cold blasted into much of the country at mid month and conditions here were slightly modified by the lakes.

But readings still fell to zero on the 17th and -3 on the 21st, the coldest reading here in 5 years. The main snow event was the day-long snowfall on the 28th which dropped 6 to 10 inches across the entire region and caused major traffic disruptions on both the morning and evening commute. It was the third major synoptic storm (6"+) in the Buffalo area this season (others were 12/19 and 12/31). Lake snow on the 30th was ameliorated some by a frozen Lake Erie but still dropped a few inches and snarled traffic once again.

The ground was snow covered all month but we were fortunate that the warm up in late December melted all the snow and we started with bare ground prior to the New Year's Eve storm. The depths were never excessive but had built to about a foot by month's end.

There was one silver lining during this otherwise bleak month, the sunshine. Some 43 percent of possible was received, quite a bit more than the usual 31 per cent in January. Five days were mostly sunny while only 8 were mostly cloudy, the rest had at least a bit of sunshine.

Lake Erie fell to 32 degrees on the 10th, about 4 days earlier than usual and much ice filled the lake thereafter.

This aided in reducing (but not shutting off entirely) our lake effect potential when winds turned favorable several times during the last half of the month. So instead of huge lake snows we got more nuisance ones instead. Winds were moderate for January, several gusty days but nothing extreme.

Summing up, a real "old fashioned" winter month in western New York.

For birders, the difficult conditions could be understood as a cause of a low number of species sightings. Yet the sightings for this month have not suffered relative to other Januarys over the past few years. Quite the contrary, the number of species sighted more than held its own, it exceeded every other January going back at least to when my records began in 2004 and spotters turned up some rare birds (my opinion) besides.

An unusual Towhee was noted by a Port Colborne, Ontario bird feeder and she called Blayne Farnan and he identified the bird as a Spotted Towhee and got it posted. John Black was critical in getting the word out. Kayo Roy, as he has done over the years, made sure certain challenged birders got a peek. Willie D'Anna reminded me that an Eastern Towhee was sometimes seen accompanying the Spotted Towhee. Jim Pawlicki and Bill Watson were among the earlier birders that saw the Spotted Towhee and they submitted Verification Reports. Our thanks to Mary and John McNeil, the Port Colborne couple that allowed access to their lakefront property.

The Spotted Towhee has a single record in the BOS database, submitted by Axiell for the period 4 through 12 December of 1976 at a feeder in Bertie, Ontario. This is another Beyond Exceptional bird in one wintry month. Bertie, Ontario. Hmm. Where is that? I consulted my MapArt Ontario Road Atlas and Bertie, nor any similarly spelled town, exists in Ontario. So I cross referenced the street location (Rose Hill Road) and found only one Rose Hill Road in the BOS Region in Ontario, in Fort Erie. Must be a typo so I consulted back to David Suggs, the maintainer of the BOS database. David stated that the records are maintained as historically written, David then referred me to the back pages of the BOS Seasonal Checklist of the Birds (Page 20). It shows the Ontario Townships - 1964 and there is Bertie, right where Fort Erie is now. So that Spotted Towhee was seen not that far from the Port Colborne Spotted Towhee a mere 32 or so years later.

A Golden Eagle in NYSOA Region 1 is beyond exceptional in winter, listed in the Buffalo Ornithological Society Seasonal Checklist of the Birds but showing no entries for the winter season but including a note: Recent winter reports in Allegany State Park.

Jeff Reed documented a Golden Eagle in Allegany State Park that he first saw on December 29th of 2008 (reported in this column in The Month: December by Mike DeSha) then also on January 1st and 4th of 2009, probably the same Golden Eagle according to Jeff. He reported a Golden Eagle on December 27th of 2007 in the same locale. Jeff, in his Verification Report, described where he parked and his

approximately two mile hike up Wolf Run to “the height of land” where he saw the Golden Eagle on January 1st. Wolf Run is on the far west side of the park.

The ever-vigilant Tim Baird reported winter Golden Eagles in the Allegany State Park/Allegheny Reservoir environs in the winter of 1999-2000. Tim also reported a sighting on February 8, 2004 in Allegany State park.

The first BOS data base record for Golden Eagle was March 18th of 1967 at the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge by Salisbury, Rybczynski and Dors. Thirty-nine of the 58 BOS data base records are in March and April with no entries for June through September.

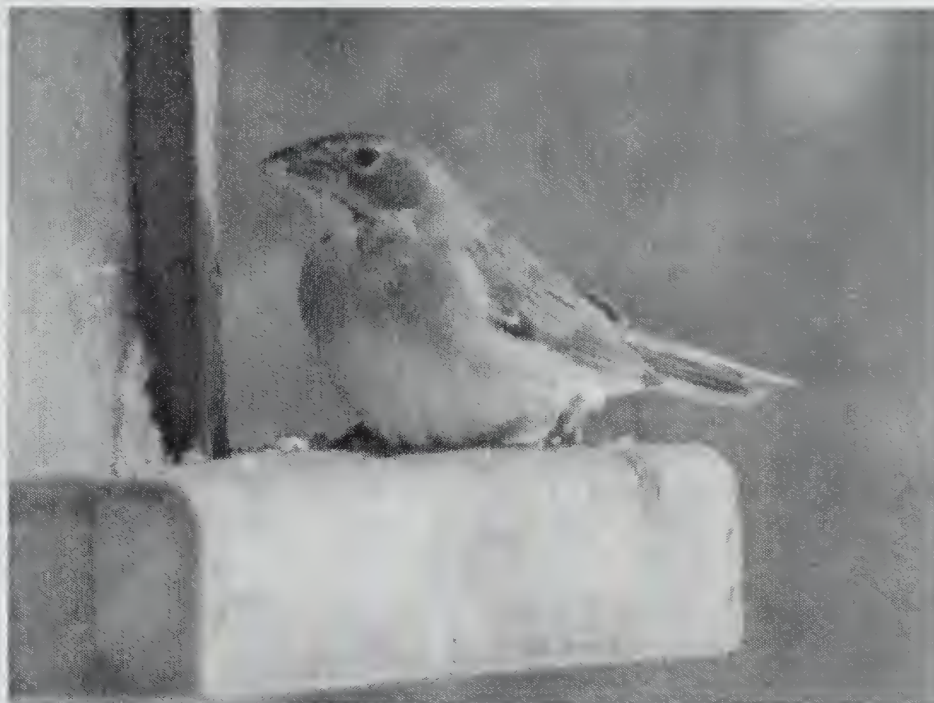
Marsh Wren is also an Exceptional bird with only one winter record that was January 2nd of 1983 in the Town of Arkwright by Jones and Mahoney. Klick and Pawlicki found one on January 3rd in the Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area. Klick said “the bird emerged from the cattails after spishing for a minute or two”.

Beardslee and Mitchell (pre-1965) says “We have long suspected that the species [then called Long-billed Marsh Wren] may possibly winter here occasionally, but we had no evidence in support of the theory until we examined a specimen in the University of Colorado collection. It was collected at Orchard Park on January 10, 1886.... Subsequently Mitchell found a wintering bird at Tifft Street, Buffalo, on February 22, 1950, and Andrie found one at Buckhorn Island State Park on December 22, 1957.” Beardslee and Mitchell went on to describe a few locations along Lakes Erie and Ontario where even more Marsh Wrens were found.

Varied Thrush has only four January records in the BOS database and is considered an Exceptional find. The most recent January find was Zebehazy’s record on 1/1/06 in Hamburg NY. Dr. Andrie found one on consecutive days on January 16-17, 1976 in Tonawanda, NY. The late Gordon Bellerby verified one on January 23rd of 1998 in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario.

Watson, Salembier and Pawlicki verified a Varied Thrush seen in Fenwick, Ontario on January 8, 2009 at private home in “relatively open country with widespread orchards and vineyards interspersed with mixed woodlots typical of the Niagara Escarpment in Ontario” wrote Jim Pawlicki. Sal took care to eliminate any confusion with an American Robin: the black mask, broad orange eye stripe and orange throat. Our thanks to homeowners Carole and Bill Chapman.

An Eared Grebe is an Exceptional record for January and an Eared Grebe was first found in a hydro impoundment pond in Niagara Falls, Ontario on December 26, 2008 by Paula Clark according to Kayo Roy. He further stated that when the pond froze over the bird was forced to leave and he believes it was last seen in Dufferin Islands, Ontario in an open water stream on January 5th of 2009. He said that many people saw the Eared Grebe yet he was the only one to submit a Verification Report dated 1/1/09. The BOS statisticians have tentatively accepted the December record pending additional documentation.



Dickcissel photographed by Debby Abgott on Jan. 27, 2009 in a feeding station at her home in Clarence Center.

Only seven records for a January Eared Grebe exist in the BOS records and it appears that two of the records are for the same bird and another three records are for another individual bird so that would appear to leave records for 4 Eared Grebes in January.

Dickcissel is considered a Very Rare bird in January and the BOS Seasonal Checklist says “Fewer records in recent years”. Looking at the BOS database, the last January record was in 1990 with the other 6 records spread between 1964 and 1970.

That is quite a gap, one January record from 1970 until 2009.

A retired photographer in Clarence wrote a Verification report for a Dickcissel coming to her feeders beginning January 27th. She lives in a semi-rural area near Tonawanda Creek. A good description is always preferred and she included photos that certainly helped state her case. We thank Debby Abgott for allowing us into her home to study the Dickcissel without disturbing the birds.

A Pine Warbler likewise is considered a Very Rare bird for January with only nine previous records. Beardslee & Mitchell lists the very rare records over many years and warns of the similarity between several fall-plumaged warblers species, including Pine Warbler, and admonish record keepers to use only those from very competent observers. Brendan Klick and others saw the warbler about noon on January 4th and Brendan submitted a Verification Report.

A Very Rare Bohemian Waxwing was noted on January 19th, just two days past January 17th, so the required Verification Report was submitted by Willie D’Anna after he and Betsy Potter had the pleasure of seeing the bird. Willie took great pains to describe what he saw and compared it to nearby American Robins.

This is my last column and I would especially like to thank David Suggs for going the extra distance in providing the BOS data base data required to do these articles. Additionally Bill Watson was very instrumental in making these article happen as was the sage advice of Bob Andrie. Many

others helped and gave their opinions when asked. [Editor's note: I extend my thanks to Jerry for his contribution of many Month articles for the Prothonotary over the past few years. Thanks Jerry!]

BOS records, supplied to me on request from the BOS data base by David Suggs, cover basically the period from 1965 to roughly present day. Historical records covering pre-1965 come mostly from Beardslee and Mitchell's Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region.

The following sources were used in this report:

Beardslee, C.S. and Mitchell, H.D. 1965, Birds of the Niagara Frontier, Bulletin of the Buffalo Society of the Natural Sciences (Buffalo Museum of Science) Volume 22.

DiTommaso D., Suggs D., et al, B.O.S. Noteworthy Records Data Base 1964-2005.

National Weather Service, January 2009, Buffalo, New York.

Suggs, David, et al. Seasonal Checklist of the Birds: Niagara Frontier Region, 2006. Buffalo Ornithological Society, Inc.

Morgante, Michael, et al Verification Date Guide, November 2006, Buffalo Ornithological Society, Inc.

Bull's Birds of New York State edited by Emanuel Levine, 1988.

The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State edited by Kevin J. McGowan and Kimberly Corwin, 2008.

The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State edited by R.F. Andrle and J.R. Carroll, 1988

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Male American Kestrel photographed by Jackie Hayden on Jan. 16, 2009 on a window ledge of the Rand Building in downtown Buffalo.

WHAT MAKES A BIRD "SEXY"?

The Buffalo Museum of Science has scheduled its "Bird 'N Buffet" dinner and Vaughan Lecture for Wednesday, April 29. The 5:30pm dinner will be followed by a 7:00pm lecture presented by Dr. Lindsey Walters of Canisius College titled, "**Mate Quality and Parenting in Birds: Is a sexy mate worth more effort?**" Both the dinner and lecture will be held at the Buffalo Museum of Science.

Tickets for the "Bird 'N Buffet" are \$25 and include the annual buffet dinner with a birding theme. Advanced registration is required, call 716.896.5200 x391.

For birds, just like humans, some potential mates are sexier than others. The evening's lecture will examine mate quality influences different types of avian parental investment. Dr. Walters will explain how a high quality mate can increase a bird's reproductive success by providing benefits like better parental care, more resources, or better genes. She will further investigate how birds that breed more than once need to pay attention to mate quality, because each time they reproduce they must decide the best way to use their resources in order to maximize their lifetime reproductive success.

Dr. Walters' lecture will take place in the Museum auditorium and is free and open to the public. Lecture attendees are not required to participate in the Bird 'N Buffet dinner event. Proceeds from the dinner will benefit educational programs at Tiffit Nature Preserve.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Eighth Edition - Revised 2007) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration.

(f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicates nest(s). (yg) Indicates young.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

<u>Species</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Mute Swan	3	3	Fort Niagara SP	Landon
"	3; 6	2; 2	Wilson Harbor	Pawlicki, Klick; Sharon
"	20 - 31	3 - 4	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Moshers et al
Tundra Swan	15, 24	202, 52	Tonawanda	Watson
"	15; 20	110; 280	Beaver I. SP	Pawlicki, Watson; Sharon
"	18; 23	32; 108	Buckhorn I. SP	Morgante; Watson
"	21	3	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Gadwall	2, 5	12, 16	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
American Black Duck	11; 25	26; 24	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson; Neveu
"	15, 24	11, 11	Tonawanda	Watson
"	18	54	Allegheny R. & Randolph	Baird et al(CCWC)
Northern Pintail	2; 4	1; 1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki; D'Anna
"	6	15	Wilson	Sharon
"	25	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Green-winged Teal	3	1	Goat I.	Pawlicki, Klick
"	4	2	Niagara Falls (Ont)	D'Anna, Newton et al
"	4; 20	1; 1	Dunkirk Harbor	Lazarczyk, Gula; Watson
Canvasback	23	10000	Grand I. (E. Branch)	Lazarczyk
Redhead	15	225	Tonawanda	Watson
"	22	100	Strawberry I.	Mitchell
"	23	100	Grand I. (E. Branch)	Lazarczyk
"	25	770	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Ring-necked Duck	3	15	LaSalle Park, Bflo.	Pawlicki
"	24	2	Chippawa (Ont)	Potter, D'Anna
Greater Scaup	11	10000	Bird I. Pier	Suggs
"	18	6500	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson et al
"	21	1871	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Lesser Scaup	18	40	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson et al
King Eider	3	1	Shadigee	Pawlicki, Klick
Surf Scoter	24	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	D'Anna et al
White-winged Scoter	13	20	Pt. Breeze	Mitchell
"	23	5	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	26	3	Fort Erie (Ont)	Salembier
Black Scoter	26	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Salembier
Long-tailed Duck	18	85	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson et al
Bufflehead	18	1225	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson et al
"	21	1187	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Common Goldeneye	18	310	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson et al
"	27	1765	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu

<u>Species</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Hooded Merganser	2, 5	18, 19	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
"	11	44	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Common Merganser	23	350	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	27	6218	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Ruddy Duck	3	1	LaSalle Park, Bflo.	Pawlicki
"	18; 24	1; 1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg; D'Anna et al
"	19; 20	2; 1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu; Watson, Pawlicki
Red-throated Loon	3	1	Shadigee	Pawlicki, Klick
"	19	12	Wilson	D'Anna
"	24	4	Fort Erie (Ont)	D'Anna et al
Pied-billed Grebe	21	5	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Horned Grebe	21	137	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Red-necked Grebe	4	1	Fort Niagara SP	Landon
"	19	1	Olcott	Yoerg, Henderson
"	21 - 31	1 - 3	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew, Moshers et al
"	24	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	D'Anna, Potter
Eared Grebe	1	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Roy et al
D.-crested Cormorant	4; 11, 20	29; 117, 18	Dunkirk Harbor	Lazarczyk, Gula; Watson
"	18	6	Motor Island	Morgante
Black-cr. Night-Heron	4; 26	4; 1 imm	Dunkirk Harbor	Lazarczyk; Neveu
"	15	2	Tonawanda	Pawlicki
Turkey Vulture	20	1	Buffalo	Cohen
Bald Eagle	15, 20	2 ad, 3 ad	Buffalo	Pawlicki, Watson
"	24	4	Navy I. (Ont)	Suggs
"	27	3 juv+2 ad	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	1	Chippawa (Ont)	Rew, Landaus
"	15	2	Darien	Mitchell
"	21	2	Jamestown	Moshers
Rough-legged Hawk	3	1	Tonawanda	Pawlicki, Klick
"	6	1	Iroquois NWR	Salembier
"	6	5	South Dayton	Neveu
"	5 - 29	1 - 2	Dunkirk Airport	Neveu
<u>Golden Eagle</u>	1, 4	1	Allegany SP	Reed
Merlin	3 - 27	1 - 3	UB south campus	Yoerg
Peregrine Falcon	1 - 25	1	BOS territory	13 reports
American Coot	4	36	Dunkirk Harbor	Lazarczyk, Gula
"	18	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Morgante
"	24	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	D'Anna, Potter
Purple Sandpiper	4; 5	1; 1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Pawlicki et al; Watson
"	4, 6, 7	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Little Gull	3	1	Lewiston	Pawlicki, Klick
"	21;24,31	3; 2, 1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu; Moshers et al
Iceland Gull	2	4	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	2, 5	2, 2	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	2, 12	1, 1	Mouth of Silver Creek	Neveu
"	9; 11	1; 1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu; Watson
"	24	1	Buffalo	Suggs
Lesser Black-b. Gull	2, 5	6, 6	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	20	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Watson
"	24	1	Buffalo	Suggs
Glaucous Gull	2 - 29	1 - 2	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	4	8	Niagara Falls (Ont)	D'Anna, Klick et al
"	5	1	Mouth of Silver Creek	Neveu
Short-eared Owl	5	2	Lockport/Royalton	Salembier

<u>Species</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	10	1	Yates	D'Anna et al
"	22	1	Dunkirk Airport	Neveu
Red-headed Wdpkr.	3, 17	1	Newfane	Pawlicki et al
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	1-31	1	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	17	1	Newfane	Pawlicki, Watson
Northern Shrike	3 - 24	1	Throughout WNY	10 reports
Common Raven	12	1	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	25	1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	26	1	Alden	Mitchell
Horned Lark	16	10	Clarence	Salembier
"	19	50	Wilson	Yoerg, Henderson
"	22	6	Eden	Andrle
"	24	8	Newstead	Mitchell
"	25	75	Bethany	Mitchell
Carolina Wren	1 - 31	1 - 2	BOS territory	10 reports
Winter Wren	4	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Lazarczyk, Gula
"	9	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Marsh Wren	<u>3</u>	1	Tonawanda WMA	Klick, Pawlicki
Eastern Bluebird	8	4	Alden	Mitchell
"	19	3	Reinstein Woods NP	Salembier
"	23	15	Iroq. NWR & Ton. WMA	Suggs
"	23	4	Elma	Morgante
"	25	4	Alexander	Dart
"	26	12	Sheridan	Neveu
Hermit Thrush	4	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	6	1	Fort Niagara SP	Sharon
American Robin	5	23	Sheridan	Neveu
"	17	80	Newfane	Watson, Pawlicki
"	17	100	Golden Hill SP	Salembier
"	23	11	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	29	1	Eden (f)	Andrle
<u>Varied Thrush</u>	8	1	Fonthill (Ont)	Watson, Salembier, Pawlicki
Northern Mockingbird	1	1	Lackawanna	Rew, Landaus
"	9, 12	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	22; 26	1; 1	Port Colborne (Ont)	Watson et al; Salembier
Bohemian Waxwing	17	1	Golden Hill SP	Salembier
"	<u>19</u>	1	Porter	D'Anna, Potter
Yellow-r. Warbler	3	2	Oak Orchard WMA	Pawlicki, Klick
"	23	1	Iroquois NWR	Suggs
Pine Warbler	<u>4</u>	1	Dufferin I. Park (Ont)	Klick et al
Eastern Towhee	25	1	Port Colborne (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
<u>Spotted Towhee</u>	22	1	Port Colborne (Ont)	Pawlicki, Watson
Field Sparrow	9	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Song Sparrow	10	7	Wilson	D'Anna
Swamp Sparrow	3	4	Oak Orchard WMA	Pawlicki, Klick
"	4	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	6	1	Tonawanda WMA	Salembier
White-cr. Sparrow	3	6	Porter	Pawlicki, Klick
"	14	1	Grand I. (f)	Lazarczyk
"	17	1	Newfane	Pawlicki, Watson
"	17	1	Porter	Pawlicki, Watson
Lapland Longspur	3	50	Somerseset	Pawlicki, Klick
"	10	6	Wilson	D'Anna
"	10	5	Newfane	D'Anna
"	11;19;24	27; 12; 5	Yates	D'Anna; Suggs; Jones

<u>Species</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	25	15	Bethany	Mitchell
"	31	5	Carlton	Hartwig, Beattie
Snow Bunting	4	160	Alexander	Beattie, Lazarczyk
"	16	132	Clarence	Salembier
"	18	800	Yates	D'Anna et al
"	19	155	Wilson	Yoerg, Henderson
"	31	500	Carlton	Hartwig, Beattie
<u>Dickcissel</u>	27-31	1	Clarence Center	Abgott
Red-w. Blackbird	3	1	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki, Klick
"	8	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	19	4	Four Mile Creek SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	25	11	Fort Erie (Ont) (f)	Yoerg, Henderson
Eastern Meadowlark	9	1	Tillman Road WMA	Chilton
Rusty Blackbird	19	3	Tonawanda WMA	Suggs
Common Grackle	3	1	Alabama	Pawlicki, Klick
"	3	1	Wilson (f)	D'Anna; Potter, D'Anna
"	25	1	Wilson	D'Anna; Potter, D'Anna
Brown-head. Cowbird	10	30	Short Hills PP (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	10	70	Wilson	D'Anna
"	3 - 23	1 - 5	BOS territory	6 other reports
Pine Grosbeak	17	1	Golden Hill SP	Salembier
Purple Finch	9 - 25	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	13	1	Colden	J Landau
"	19	1	Grand I. (f)	Lazarczyk
Red Crossbill	5	4	Snyder	Klick
White-w. Crossbill	4	30	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Pawlicki, Watson et al
"	10	30	Short Hills PP (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	18	40	Golden Hill SP	Potter, D'Anna
"	19	40	Porter	D'Anna, Potter
"	1 - 31	1 - 28	BOS territory	33 other reports!
Common Redpoll	3 - 31	1 - 4	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	4	15	Niagara Falls (Ont)	D'Anna et al
"	4	7	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	31	3	Youngstown (f)	Landon, Yonker
"	7 - 25	1	Throughout WNY	5 other reports
Pine Siskin	1 - 31	6 - 25	Eden (f)	Andrle
"	1 - 31	30	Alden (f)	Seamans
"	1 - 31	50 max	Wilson (f)	Potter, D'Anna
"	2 - 31	1 - 33	Williamsville	Salembier
"	3	40	Medina	Pawlicki, Klick
"	1 - 31	1 - 20	BOS territory	14 other reports

Also seen in January: Canada Goose, American Wigeon, Mallard, Red-breasted Merganser, Ring-necked Pheasant, Wild Turkey, Great Blue Heron, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Bonaparte's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, E. Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, American Tree Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, House Finch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded this year: 121

Total for the year 2008: 121

Statisticians' Note I: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision.

Statisticians' Note II: We are asking members of the BOS and any other birders who send in reports to the BOS to advise us as soon as they can of any possible errors in regard to records published in the Prothonotary, particularly in the Noteworthy Records so that we can make any necessary changes as soon as appropriate.

January 2009 Waterfowl Count Summary

Jim Landau

Overview. The New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA) conducts an annual waterfowl count each January throughout the state's 10 assigned regions, to assist the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) in monitoring long-term population changes, bird conservation planning and environmental reviews. The Buffalo Ornithological Society has been participating in this effort since 1955. The count area includes the Niagara River and adjacent waters of Lakes Erie and Ontario, and any productive open interior bodies of water. Beginning this year the DEC made a slight shift to have the 9-day count period begin on the Saturday just prior to Martin Luther King holiday, which is always the third Monday in January. Thus, the count period this year was January 17-25, with the target date of Sunday, January 18. Final results of the state waterfowl count will be published in "The Kingbird" and will also be posted on the NYSOA website at: <http://www.nybirds.org/ProjWaterfowl.htm>

Species Compilation. The table below lists the species observed on this count and their accumulated totals. Species without comments showed no particular trend worth noting. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the section numbers are given in parentheses.

Species	Total	Comments
Canada Goose	3362	
Mute Swan	19	(B, F, J)
Tundra Swan	339	Record high for count
Wood Duck	3	(E, J)
Gadwall	6	(E, I)
American Wigeon	1	(E)
American Black Duck	127	
Mallard	2828	
Mallard X Black Duck	1	(J)
Canvasback	12692	
Redhead	822	
Ring-necked Duck	88	
Greater Scaup	17478	
Lesser Scaup	246	
White-winged Scoter	407	
Long-tailed Duck	1915	
Bufflehead	2338	
Common Goldeneye	7193	Highest since 1962
Hooded Merganser	109	
Common Merganser	10171	
Red-breasted Merganser	2921	
Ruddy Duck	1	(F)
Red-throated Loon	13	Record high for count (B)
Pied-billed Grebe	13	(I, J, K)
Horned Grebe	32	Record high for count
Red-necked Grebe	3	(B, I)
D.-crested Cormorant	74	(G, I)
American Coot	82	
Other/Unidentified	30	
TOTAL OF ABOVE	63314	2 nd highest count

Weather. A snowfall of 3-6 inches hit the area on 10-11th. Severe cold blasted into much of the country at mid month and conditions here were slightly modified by the lakes. But readings still fell to zero °F on the 17th and minus three on the 21st, the coldest reading in five years.

Lake Erie fell to 32 °F on the 10th, about 4 days earlier than usual, and much ice filled the lake thereafter. This aided in reducing (but not shutting off entirely) our "lake effect" potential when winds turned favorable several times during the last half of the month. So instead of huge lake snows, we got more nuisance ones instead.

Notes. As mentioned in the overview the count window this year was one week later than previous seasons. One result was a grace period between the close of duck hunting and the start of the count period, perhaps affording an opportunity for waterfowl to settle down after all the excitement.

Another result was more potential opportunity for ice formation. While weather is never predictable from one year to the next, the deep cold experienced just prior to the count certainly accelerated the extent of ice cover on Lake Erie as well as on shallow inland ponds, lakes and streams. This was noted by several section leaders. David and Debbie Suggs commented in their report from Section H (Buffalo Harbor to Silver Creek) that, "Most everywhere was frozen." Doris Burton, reporting from Allegany County, noted, "The Genesee (River) has more ice cover, except in fast flowing areas, than I've seen in several years." Ed Ratajczak stated that the Iroquois NWR, Oak Orchard WMA & Tonawanda WMA complex had no open water and no waterfowl of any kind were to be found.

In any event, 2009 was in fact the second highest overall count that has been seen since 1955, the 2001 count holding the record when 71801 individuals were observed. This year, new record high species counts are noted for Tundra Swan, Red-throated Loon and Horned Grebe.

Common Goldeneye continues a dramatic increase extending for the past five years, and this year had the highest numbers since 1962, when 7361 were noted.

No record low counts were noted this year, however American Black Duck continues to struggle. Mallard is continuing a downward trend in recent years that began after a record high of 8558 in 2004.

Missing from this year's count were Northern Pintail and Common Loon.

Participation in New York's Annual Mid-winter Bald Eagle Survey.

Although the January Waterfowl Count no longer overlaps with the National Mid-winter Bald Eagle Survey, we were asked to report any eagle sightings nonetheless. The DEC, in turn, contributes the combined New York State census to the national Mid-winter Bald Eagle Survey, which is now coordinated nationally by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. You can follow the DEC's winter eagle research on the Internet at www.dec.ny.gov/animals/9381.html

The following Bald Eagle sightings were reported:

1/18/2009 – One adult on the ice east of Strawberry Island (Niagara River), one immature flying from Navy Island area to Grand Island, NY. Mike Morgante

1/18/2009 - One adult perched in tree, Fort Erie, Ontario. Bill Watson

1/18/2009 - One adult and one immature; Allegheny River at Vandalia, NY. One adult, Allegheny River at Salamanca, NY. Timothy Baird

1/18/2009 - One adult was observed flying from the point at Old Fort Niagara across the river to Canada. Robert & Donna DeLeon

1/19/2009 – One adult, west side of 4 Mile Creek State Park, Wilson, NY. Peter Yoerg

Acknowledgements. The compiler wishes to thank the following section leaders (in boldface) and participants for their efforts on behalf of this year's January Waterfowl Count:

A. Lake Ontario (Point Breeze to Olcott): **Tom O'Donnell**, Susan O'Donnell

B. Lake Ontario (Olcott to Fort Niagara): **Peter Yoerg**, Barbara Henderson, Willie D'Anna

C. Fort Niagara to Niagara Falls, NY side: **Robert Deleon**, Donna Deleon

D. Niagara on the Lake to Niagara Falls, Canadian side: **Mike Zebehazy**, Doug Happ

E1. Buffalo Harbor to Sheridan Dr., NY side: **John Thill**, Mike Hamilton

E2. Sheridan Dr. to Goat Island: **Gerry Rising**, Dave Friedrich, Mike Galas, Nick Glabicky, Melissa Graham, Chris Hollister, Kyle Horton

F1. Peace Bridge to Horseshoe Falls: **Lynne Landon**, Terry Yonker, Art Hannah, Peter Yoerg

F2. Jaeger Rocks to Peace Bridge, Canadian side: **Bill Watson**, Jim Pawlicki, David Gordon

G. Grand Island: **Mike Morgante**, Mark Morgante and Chris Akios

H. Lake Erie (Buffalo Harbor to Silver Creek): **David Suggs**, Deborah Suggs

I. Lake Erie (Silver Creek to PA line): **Fran Rew**, Audrey Horbett

J. Jamestown & Chautauqua Lake: **Tom Simmons**, **Bill Seleen**, Paul Doran, Maggie Jewett

K. Allegheny River, Cattaraugus Co. from Olean to Allegheny Reservoir at PA line.): **Tim Baird**, Pat Coate, Mike DeSha, Tom LeBlanc

L. Allegany County: **Doris Burton**, Mary Jordan, Larry Wilson

M. Batavia, NY: **Gail Seamans**

N & O. Iroquois NWR, Oak Orchard & Tonawanda WMAs: **Ed Ratajczak**

P. Williamsville, Cheektowaga, Lancaster, NY: **Holly Sweeney**, Mike Morgante

Q. Delaware Park, Forest Lawn Cemetery: **Tom Connare**

R. South Park, Cazenovia Park & Creek: **Elizabeth Wells**, James Rozanski

Article Review: "Assessing Seasonal Variations in Counts and Movements of Bonaparte's Gulls *Larus Philadelphia* on the Niagara River, Ontario"

Bill Watson

This article on the temporal abundance of Bonaparte's Gulls on the lower Niagara River by David Anthony Kirk, Gordon Bellerby (deceased) Rodney W. Brooks, D. V. (Chip) Weseloh and Peter J. Ewins, is not only informative and thought provoking, but is also a tribute to the work of many past and present Buffalo Ornithological Society members. In the "Literature Cited" one can find the previously published research of B. O. S. members like Robert Andrie, Clark Beardslee, Gordon Bellerby, Joanna Berger, Richard Brownstein, and Harold Mitchell. This article, published in a fairly recent issue of *Waterbirds* 31 (2): 193-203, 2008, can be viewed as a tribute to Gordon Bellerby. Gordon was not only an author of this paper, but he also was a Corresponding Member of the Buffalo Ornithological Society, since 1985. Nearly all of the data upon which the article is based are his. Between 1986 and 1996, in addition to the many Little Gulls and Common Black-headed Gulls flying by Niagara-on-the-Lake to roost on Lake Ontario in the evening, Gordon Bellerby counted 180,570 Bonaparte's Gulls. In the article Gordon also leaves behind an excellent standardized counting protocol with regards to location, weather, count duration, and other factors for anyone that would like to continue his research.

The article points out that much of the Mississippi Flyway population of Bonaparte's Gulls stages on the Niagara River before continuing their migration to the Gulf coast and Mexico. Since Bonaparte's Gulls nest in trees as individuals or loose colonies it is nearly impossible to estimate the population size during breeding season due to vegetative cover. Their world population can best be estimated by counting them at staging areas during migration.

Bellerby's counts began in early October to coincide with the second wave of Bonaparte Gull migration. The study showed the second wave of migration on the Niagara River began between early October and late November, with a median on November 1, and continued until late January or mid-February, with a median on February 5. Maximum counts were between early November and late January, with a median on December 6. These high counts varied between 6,300 in 1993/94 and 40,000 in 1990/91.

In this paper the authors describe mathematical models best fitting the relationship of daily count data with calendar day and length of counting period. Although the modeling method showed mean daily temperature might influence the counts, the relationship between these two variables was not significant. Anyone wishing a copy of the article should contact Chip at chip.weseloh@ec.gc.ca

New York State January Big Day Record in Region 1

Brendan Klick

Jim Pawlicki and I started January 3, 2009 with the half-hope of breaking the New York State January Big Day record of 80 species. We started off a little before 7:00 a.m. calling for Barred Owl at the Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area. No Barred Owl but we had a rare in winter Red-winged Blackbird fly-over at the break of dawn. This certainly was a good way to start our day off. On nearby Meadville Road we spent a fair amount of time spishing in a mostly frozen cattail marsh. After several minutes a small bird emerged from the cattails—MARSH WREN. This bird is a true seasonal rarity in this region of the state. Almost immediately after observing the Marsh Wren, Jim spotted a Northern Shrike. Further down the road at a feeder we had a Brown-Headed Cowbird and a small flock of White-winged Crossbills, the latter species being unprecedentedly common throughout the region this winter. It was starting out to be a great morning.

On route to the Oak Orchard Wildlife Management Area at another feeder, we had a COMMON GRACKLE. Another great winter find for the region. After working hard to find blackbirds on previous Big Januarys, I was very pleasantly surprised to find three species in one morning. At Oak Orchard we picked up two surprise Yellow-rumped Warblers and a few staked out Swamp Sparrows.

A quick stop at a staked out feeder in the town of Shelby produced Pine Siskins. Driving north on Route 63, we veered to the side of the road quickly to check out a large flock of finches foraging like Common Redpolls in small trees on the road edge, but to our surprise and disappointment they turned out to be Pine Siskins—about 40 in total.

We spent about 20 minutes watching Lake Ontario at Shadigee. There we had a KING EIDER flyby with a flock of White-winged Scoters. Another great find. A flyby Red-throated Loon was also another great big day bird, but unfortunately no sign of any grebes. Checking Niagara-Orleans Countyline Rd., which usually holds flocks of field birds, we spent several minutes driving around looking for activity and eventually spotted large flock too distant to pick out the needed Lapland Longspurs. We waited a few more minutes and were rewarded when most of the flock flew in our direction close enough to pick out longspurs, although we really didn't need to pick any out because almost all were Lapland Longspurs with a few Snow Buntings mixed in!

A Northern Mockingbird at Golden Hill State Park was a nice surprise, being our only one of the day. The RED-HEADED WOODPECKER, Mute Swans, and White-crowned Sparrows were all staked out and right where they were supposed to be. A quick stop at Four Mile Creek State Park produced a much needed Red-breasted Nuthatch and Cedar Waxwings, along with a surprise Eastern Screech-Owl calling at mid-day, which we tracked down and found roosting in a birch stump. A flyby Cooper's Hawk was a

relieve for us, but we still did not have Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, Rough-legged Hawk, or Snowy Owl by mid-afternoon, the last of which had been sighted on the Lake Ontario Plain in recent weeks.

Moving next to the Niagara River, we had Little Gull at the traditional spot in Lewiston and an immature Iceland Gull and poor, backlit views of an adult Thayer's-type Gull (not counted) at the Robert Moses Power Plant. A quick look below the falls from the Schoellkopf Geological Museum overlook produced Redhead, Canvasback, and American Wigeon, but not the staked out Common Loon.

At Goat Island above Niagara Falls, there was no sign of Belted Kingfisher or Double-crested Cormorant which are usually present in winter. However we picked up the expected Lesser Black-backed and Glaucous Gulls, along with a surprise Green-winged Teal and Sharp-shinned Hawk.

A quick stop to scan the calmer waters above the falls produced Gadwalls, Tundra Swans, and Ring-necked Ducks. Driving along the Robert Moses Parkway towards Grand Island, we finally saw an American Kestrel. At the south end of Grand Island and looking across the river in Tonawanda, we were not able to pick-up Peregrine Falcon at a traditional spot, but did get Great Blue Heron and American Coot, in addition to a rather unexpected Rough-legged Hawk at a distant landfill. Nearby we found 2 much needed Golden-crowned Kinglets. From Beaver Island State Park, Jim picked out a distant Peregrine Falcon, but no Bald Eagles on Strawberry Island where they are usually very reliable. With light failing fast we rushed to Squaw Island on the Niagara River and then LaSalle Park in Buffalo Harbor where we picked up Double-crested Cormorant and Ruddy Duck, respectively. We had just enough time for one last planned stop at a traditional Merlin roost site in the city of Buffalo. There with the help of the street lights we were able to spot one of the MERLINS roosting in a conifer.

At 84 species we were happy with our total, especially with all the great birds that we found, although there were some disappointing misses in the list especially raptors. We tried a last-ditch effort for Saw-whet and Great Horned Owl with no luck and eventually decided to call it quits. Regardless, after appreciating that a January Big Day is truly a challenge because of the minimal hours of daylight, combined with the fact that we found several great birds and had a new record, we were definitely satisfied.

Editors Note: Big day records are archived with the American Birding Association (ABA) and they have laid the ground rules, interpretations, and ethics for these birding adventures. These and other information can be downloaded or read online at www.aba.org/bigday. Big day records are not a BOS or NYSOA statistic.

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April – May Calendar

BOS website

<http://www.bosbirding.org/>



Buffalo-Niagara Region
Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

**Final Notice: 2009 BOS Grant
Applications Due April 1st**

<http://www.bosbirding.org/grants.htm>

Mar. 1 - May 15: Hamburg Hawkwatch at Lakeside Memorial Park in Hamburg (off Camp Rd. between Routes 5 & 20). Generally 10 AM - 3 PM, "weather permitting". Weekday volunteers needed! Contact Jim Landau for additional info (941-3869 or kjlandau@localnet.com).

Apr. 1: 2009 BOS Grant Deadline. Applications can be downloaded at www.bosbirding.org/grants.htm. Submit applications to Lynne Landon, 139 Jackson St., Youngstown, NY 14174; Email: llandon@daemen.edu.

Apr. 8: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Students of the Canisius College Computational Ecology Research Team will present talks and posters on their avian research. The students are cosponsored by Dr. Sara Morris, Professor of Biology, and Dr. David Sheets, Professor of Physics, at Canisius College.

Apr. 19: April Bird Count: All BOS members should participate. Contact Coordinator: Mike Hamilton (881-6709 or mhsr@wzrd.com).

Apr. 29: 2009 Vaughan Lecture. Dr. Lindsey Walters of Canisius College "Mate quality and parenting in birds: Is a sexy mate worth more effort?"

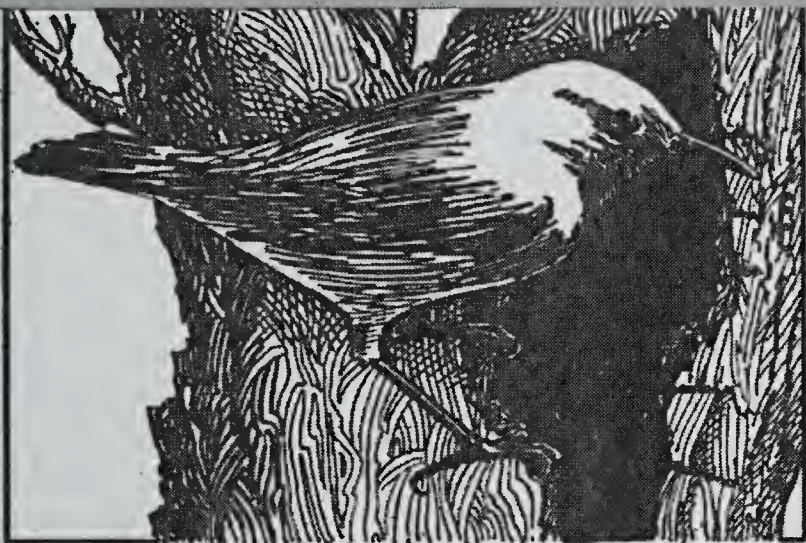
May 9: Saturday. Tifft Nature Preserve. Meet at the Tifft NP parking lot (off Fuhrmann Blvd.) at 8:00 AM. Leader: Bill Bogacki (435-4426).

May 13: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Chuck Rosenberg, NYSDEC wildlife biologist, will present results of his research on "Identification of Critical Habitats for Wintering Short-eared Owls in Western New York."

May 17: Sunday. May Bird Count. Coordinator: Robert DeLeon (626-0325 or rldeleon@yahoo.com). All BOS members should participate.

May 22-24: 2009 Great Lakes Raptor Conference, hosted by Ripley Hawk Watch at the Chautauqua Institution. Up-to-date information about the conference, field trips, housing, and registration is available at www.hmana.org. In addition to the conference, a birding trip is planned to Presque Isle (Ohio) and dinner and wine tasting at the Noble Winery. Please contact Gil Randell with questions (716)753-2333 or by email at: janngil@fairpoint.net. (See announcement on page 12 of this issue.)

The PROTHONOTARY



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THE MONTH: February

Elizabeth Wells

Compared to the previous months' weather, I thought February provided a welcome break. Thomas from the National Weather Service summarizes "this February will be noted for the lack of big snow events and the abundance of February sunshine." February was the first month since September where temperatures were above mean, with a mean temperature of 27.2 °F (+1.3), it was the 47th warmest on record in 139 years. February 7th was the beginning of six days of unseasonably warm weather, with warm southwestern winds giving us a high temperature of 54 on February 10th. Warmer weather lead to rapid reduction of the 8" snow pack that developed earlier in the season, to less than an inch by the end of February. That, combined with 1.58" (combined total) of rain on the 11th and 12th brought local creeks and rivers close to or above flood stage. Thomas notes "High winds on the 12th...including a peak wind gust of 54 mph brought tree limbs and power lines down across the metro Buffalo area." Temperatures dropped 19 degrees on the 12th and we had below average temperatures the following week. On a clear night with little wind, February 5th had the month's lowest temperature of -6.

Warm weather returned at the end of the month for a few days giving us our fourth day of 50 degrees or above temperatures on the 27th. We also had 0.51" of rain on the 27th, giving us slightly above average precipitation of 2.65" (+0.32). Snowfall for the month was 11.6", a -6.2" departure from normal, with 3.1" falling on February 3rd when "...an inverted trough passed from northeast to southwest across western New York." (Thomas) Other high snowfalls occurred on the 12th with 2.7", and on the 20th and 22nd with 1.2" each. Light snowfalls were frequent throughout the month, keeping roadways slippery. A few cracks in the ice cover on Lake Erie produced periods of lake effect snow.

February also brought much appre-

ciated sunshine, which was 16% above normal, 54% of daylight hours were sunny. Eight days had sunshine of 80% or more, and five days, from the 13th to the 18th, had a minimum of 50% sun, with four of those days having at least 75% of possible sunlight.

Notable birds for the month of February included Barrow's Goldeneye, Dickcissel, Golden Eagle, Hoary Redpoll, Mew Gull, Spotted Towhee, and a Trumpeter Swan. Significant numbers of White-winged Crossbills continued in February as well.

Considered an exceptional rarity, two Mew Gulls were seen this month, bringing this winter's total to three. An adult Mew Gull was spotted on February 15 by Jim Pawlicki, birding with Dave Gordon, and seen by many others. The bird was observed for 2.5 hours from Ontario St. at Olcott Beach on Lake Ontario (Newfane, Niagara County.) It was mostly preening, on a concrete pier about 125 yards out in the water with hundreds of Ring-billed Gulls (and one Thayer's Gull). Jim describes the bird as "Overall very



White-winged Crossbill photographed by Kristin Grove in Lancaster, NY.

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similar in coloration, size, shape, and structure to nearby Ring-billed Gulls, but being slightly smaller in size and "daintier" in structure with shorter legs, longer wing projection, thinner more finely tipped bill, and more rounded forehead. Clearly an adult in basic plumage based on a gray mantle and black primaries with white tips." He continues, the "... primary [wing] pattern along with other features such as the faint dark marking on the bill and dusky eyes point to the North American race of Mew Gull also known as "Short-billed Gull" (*L.c. brachyrhynchus*)." This subspecies breeds in Northwestern Canada and Alaska, wintering along the entire North American Pacific coast. Prior to the December 6th, 2008 sighting, the most recent record had been December 13, 2003 by D'Anna, et al at the Niagara Power Project on the Niagara River. There have been ten sightings

total for Mew Gulls, with none occurring prior to 1967. This is also the first February sighting, with all other records occurring in October, November or December.

In addition, Jim Pawlicki, along with Dave Wheeler, found yet another Mew Gull on February 22, near the mouth of Eighteen-Mile Creek at Lake Ontario, Olcott Beach (Town of Newfane), Niagara County, once again with many Ring-bills. Jim gives an excellent description of both gulls and determines not only is this an entirely different gull than the one spotted one week earlier, it is a different subspecies also. He writes "Major features of this bird which support the subspecific identification as the nominate European race of Mew Gull also known as "Common Gull" (*L.c. canus*) over the North American "Short-billed" race are the presence of a complete dark ring around the bill, dark (not dusky) eye, and mantle shade. The distinctive Siberian race of Mew Gull (*L.c. kamtshatshensis*) also known as "Kamchatka Gull" can be ruled out based on size, mantle shade, eye color, and bill length, while the Russian subspecies *L.c. heinei* is very similar in plumage and structure to nominate *L.c. canus* and is considered here under *L.c. canus*. ... the fact that the mantle shade of this

bird was just very slightly darker than the Ring-billed Gulls with at times appearing to overlap would seem to confirm that this bird is of the nominate *L.c. canus* since "Common Gull" is the only subspecies of Mew Gull which is described to overlap in mantle shade with Ring-billed Gull." Neither Mew Gull was seen again.

A very rare male Barrows Goldeneye was found swimming and diving by Richard Salembier on February 1st at Point Breeze in the town of Carlton, Orleans County. It was again seen from Lake Shore Rd. on February 2 and last seen in this general area on Feb. 8. A male Barrow's Goldeneye was sighted regularly on Canandaigua Lake outside the BOS territory from February 14-22. Previous Barrow's Goldeneye records for January through March, were January 30, 2000 by DiTommaso in Buffalo and Fort Erie; and by D'Anna on February 6, 2000 in Fort Erie. There were no sightings for this time of year from 1985-99, although they were seen every year from 1980-84.

Some of the birds sighted for February appear to be carryovers from January, which were well documented by Jerry Lazarczyk in The Month: January. A very rare Dickcissel, a first winter male, continues to be seen at a feeder on private property in the Town of Clarence throughout the month.

The Spotted Towhee, another carry over from January, first spotted at a feeding station in Port Colborne, Ontario, on January 22, was reported at the same property by J. Lazarczyk on February 10.

On February 22, David Neveu and Andy Morrison observed a sub-adult Golden Eagle, as a local Red-tailed Hawk escorted it out of the area. It was seen flying over Mackinaw Road in the Cattaraugus County Town of Perysburg. This is the second Golden Eagle record sighted in February; the first was spotted by Tim Baird in Allegany on February 8, 2004.

Willie D'Anna and Betsy Potter had a very rare female Hoary Redpoll with some Common Redpolls at their feeders on Lake Rd. Town of Wilson on February 16 & 17. Willie notes it was paler than the Common Redpolls and further distinguished "... by unstreaked (or nearly so) undertail coverts, stubby bill with straight culmen, relatively finer flank streaking, and narrow pale area on rear scapulars." The last most recent report for a February Hoary Redpoll was in 1998 in Newfane by Willie D'Anna! They also noted a green-morph Pine Siskin at their feeder that day.

The carcass of a female Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*) was found by Pat Morton February 10, at Dale Beaver's Farm, Town of Conewango, Cattaraugus County, NY and reported by Jim Berry. Jim reports "The bird was found on the shore of a 2-3 acre man-made impoundment. The surrounding area is considered floodplain of Conewango Creek and is presently a flooded cattail marsh area. It had a yellow plastic band with black numbers 075 on each wing and a metal FWS band No. 619 190075 on its leg. On Wednesday February 11, Pat brought the bird to RTP where I photographed the bird and stored it in the freezer. I

subsequently reported the bird band number on the USGS Website and filed a Trumpeter Swan Recovery report on the Wye Marsh (Midland, Ontario) Website." The DEC has since taken the bird to the NYS Museum to make a skeletal mount of it. Jim B. had no indication of the cause of death. Harry Lumsden reports the bird was hatched and banded at Wye Marsh, Ontario in 2006.

With 23 reports of White-winged Crossbills in February following 37 reports in January, coming in from all over Western New York and the Niagara Peninsula, Ont., the irruption appears to be continuing. As I mentioned in *The Month*: July 2008, just as Red Crossbills are dependent on certain cone crops, White-winged Crossbills are too. White-winged prefer the smaller, softer cones of spruce, hemlock and larch. According to Ron Pittaway's Winter Finch Forecast 2008-2009 posted on ebird, www.ebird.org, cone crops in the Atlantic Provinces were poor, "In Ontario, spruce crops are fair to good west and east of Lake Superior and in central Ontario such as Algonquin Park, but cone abundance diminishes rapidly northwards into the boreal forest" and "The hemlock crop is poor in central Ontario." Kaufmann mentions on his website the perfect set up for an irruption is a plentiful spring cone crop in eastern Canada, allowing the birds to nest successfully, and a poor fall cone crop, that leaves the White-winged Crossbills in search of food. Pittaway further notes, the nomadic White-winged Crossbill "...wandered widely this past summer searching for extensive spruce cone crops. Reports came from Alaska, Yukon, Hudson Bay Lowlands, Ontario, Quebec and many northern states such as Michigan and New York" (ebird). They will nest where they find sufficient food and if they find it locally, there is a possibility of nesting White-winged Crossbills.

Thank you to Dave Suggs and Mike Morgante.

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Yellow-billed Loon Endangered, Nearly

From American Bird Conservancy

On March 25th, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) published a finding that the Yellow-billed Loon warrants listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The finding was a response to a 2004 petition brought by the Center for Biological Diversity. As with many other recent FWS ESA findings, the agency states that the listing of the loon is currently precluded due to other higher priority listing actions, so it is not likely to be added to the list of species protected under the Act any time soon. Instead, it will remain on the Candidate List along with the Greater Sage-Grouse, Kittlitz's Murrelet, Red Knot, and several other species for which funds are not currently available to complete the listing process.

The finding comes at the end of a thorough status review completed by FWS following a 2007 finding that listing may be warranted. The loon relies on undisturbed and unpolluted Arctic lakes for nesting, and 75% of its range falls within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, parts of which are being leased out for oil and gas exploration, and potentially, development (e.g. 1.45 million acres leased out in 1999 and 2002).

FWS states that loons may respond to human disturbance occurring up to a mile away. The species is also vulnerable to drowning in gill nets and to oil pollution on its wintering grounds along the Pacific coasts of China, Japan, the Korean peninsula, Canada, and the U.S. - where it occasionally reaches as far south as California. The species has a small global population of perhaps as few as 16,500 birds (of which fewer than 5,000 are found in the United States), and a slow reproductive rate (it is monogamous, raises a single brood of just one or two chicks each year, and only reaching sexual maturity at six or seven years of age). It is therefore especially vulnerable to human impacts.

The effects of climate change on permafrost, potentially accelerated by oil development at sensitive sites, may also present a threat to nesting loons if melting results in breaches in the banks of nesting lakes. There is also some small scale subsistence hunting of the species, which, at eight to 13 pounds, provides salty seal-like meat, and its skin can be used to make tool bags. According to a State of Alaska letter to FWS with information for the status review, Inupiaq oral tradition warns of the sharp bills of these birds which are rumored to have caused the demise of unwary hunters by piercing the skins of their kayaks. Interestingly, in 2007, the Resource Development Council of Alaska mounted a campaign to prevent the species being listed, perhaps an indication that the listing is indeed needed.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Eighth Edition - Revised 2007) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration.

(f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicates nest(s). (yg) Indicates young.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PDDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

<u>Species</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Mute Swan	1, 15	11	Ft. Erie to Niag. Falls	D'Anna
"	6	6	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
"	7	4	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson, Pawlicki
"	16	6	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Salembier
"	17; 28	6; 2	Beaver I. SP	Watson; Pawlicki et al
"	18	13	Wilson & Olcott	Galas, Rising, Bearss
"	28	2	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
* <u>Trumpeter Swan</u>	10	1 dead	Conewango	Morton, Berry
Tundra Swan	2; 6	188; 85	Beaver I. SP	Watson; Yoerg
"	9	3	Dunkirk Harbor	Salembier
"	18	50	Buckhorn I. SP	Hess
"	23F	6	Ccleron	Neveu
* Wood Duck	2, 3	2	Amherst	Pawlicki, Salembier
Gadwall	10	5	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	14	2	Tonawanda	Salembier
American Wigeon	28F	2	Wilson Harbor	D'Anna
American Black Duck	3	6	Amherst	Salembier
"	8	7	Salamanca	Baird
"	20, 24	11, 30	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Northern Pintail	28F	6	Beaver I. SP	Pawlicki, Gordon
"	28F	6	Wilson Harbor	D'Anna et al
Green-winged Teal	2, 3	1	Amherst	Pawlicki, Salembier
"	26F	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Canvasback	5, 19	454, 305	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	12	448	Ccleron	Neveu
"	14	708	Tonawanda	Salembier
Redhead	5, 28	626, 287	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	12	294	Ccleron	Neveu
"	14;17	8; 27	Tonawanda	Salembier; Hess
"	15	90	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
Ring-necked Duck	12	4	Ccleron	Neveu
"	14	1	Grand Island	Lazarczyk
"	17	1	Pt. Breeze	Beattie et al
"	28	2	Beaver I. SP	Pawlicki, Gordon
Greater Scaup	5, 26	1646, 1728	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	26	7000	Buffalo	Watson
Lesser Scaup	10	3	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	14	24	Tonawanda	Salembier
King Eider	14	1 - 1st-yr m	Fort Erie (Ont)	Seburn, Jacklin

<u>Species</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Surf Scoter	8; 13, 24	1; 1	Pt. Breeze	Salembier; Lazarczyk
"	15	1	Fort Niagara SP	Salembier
"	17	2	Bird I. Pier	Yoerg
White-winged Scoter	8; 17	51; 30	Pt. Breeze	Salembier; Beattie et al
"	7; 14	3; 2	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson; Moshers
"	26	2	Buffalo	Watson, Pawlicki
Black Scoter	1, 15	1, 2	Dunkirk Harbor	Yoerg, Henderson
"	8; 16	1; 6	Pt. Breeze	Salembier; Beattie et al
"	15	1	Fort Niagara SP	Salembier
"	16	1	Wilson Harbor	Salembier
Long-tailed Duck	8	51	Pt. Breeze	Salembier
"	16, 23	1	Celeron	Neveu
"	26	85	Buffalo	Watson
Bufflehead	2, 5	352, 275	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Common Goldeneye	14, 26	758, 932	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
* <u>Barrow's Goldeneye</u>	8	1	Pt. Breeze	Salembier
Hooded Merganser	24	24	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Common Merganser	5, 13	3553, 2809	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Red-br. Merganser	22	2	Salamanca	Baird
"	26	3000	Buffalo	Watson
Ruddy Duck	6-14	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	28	3	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
Red-throated Loon	8	1	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna
"	8	1	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna
"	14 - 21	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu, Goetz
Pied-billed Grebe	2	1	Tonawanda I.	Watson
"	7	3	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
"	21	1	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
Horned Grebe	8	1	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna
"	9	19	Dunkirk Harbor	Salembier
Red-necked Grebe	7 - 24	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Watson et al
"	16	2	Wilson Harbor	Salembier
Double-cr. Cormorant	7	114	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
"	16, 26	1	Tonawanda	Watson
Great Blue Heron	10, 13	12, 13	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	11	16	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	17; 28	59; 42	Motor I.	Watson; Sharon
"	17	8	Tonawanda	Hess
Black-cr. Night-Heron	7	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Watson
"	16	1	Tonawanda	Watson
Bald Eagle	1	6	Buffalo	D'Anna et al
"	1	1	Porter	D'Anna, Potter
"	6	<u>12</u>	Dunkirk Harbor	Moshers
"	6	2 -4	Strawberry I.	Yoerg
"	16	2	South Dayton	Rew, J&K Landau
Northern Harrier	16	2	Dunkirk	Rew, J&K Landau
Red-shouldered Hawk	5	2	Darien	Pawlicki, Mitchell
"	8	1	Harmony	Berry
"	11	1	Chippawa (Ont)	Hogenbirk et al
"	15	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	D'Anna et al
Rough-legged Hawk	15	1	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg, Henderson
"	16; 22	4; 6	South Dayton	Rew, Landaus; Neveu
"	15; 21	2; 3	Yates	Sharon; D'Anna et al
"	24	1	Clarence	Watson, Pawlicki

<u>Species</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
<u>Golden Eagle</u>	22	1 juv	Perrysburg	Neveu, Morrison
Merlin	2 - 28	1 - 2	UB south campus	Yoerg
Peregrine Falcon	7	1 ad	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Watson
"	7	1	Buffalo	Pawlicki, Watson
"	14	1	Tonawanda	Salembier
"	26	1	North Grand I. bridge	Landon
American Coot	7	72	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
"	28	3	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
Little Gull	1; 3	1 juv; 2	Dunkirk Harbor	Yoerg et al; Neveu
"	7	1	Queenston (Ont)	Yoerg
"	14; 28	1; 14	Lewiston	Landon; Pawlicki et al
* <u>Mew Gull</u>	15	1	Olcott	Pawlicki, D'Anna et al
"	15	1	Olcott	Watson, Lazarczyk et al
"	22	1	Olcott	Pawlicki, D'Anna et al
Iceland Gull	11	8	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	Hogenbirk et al
"	13	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	15	2	Niagara Falls (Ont)	D'Anna et al
"	17	2	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
"	21	5	Wilson	D'Anna et al
"	22	4	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki, Wheeler
Lesser Black-b. Gull	15	1	Niagara Falls	D'Anna et al
Glaucous Gull	7	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Watson
"	11	4	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	Hogenbirk et al
"	21	3	Wilson	D'Anna et al
"	22	2	Porter	Pawlicki, Wheeler
"	23; 24	1; 1	Olcott	Pawlicki; Lazarczyk et al
* Snowy Owl	19	1	St. Catharines (Ont)	Jacklin
"	21	1	Sardinia	Wiatr
* Long-eared Owl	16	3	Fort Erie (Ont)	B&J Farnan
Short-eared Owl	21	6	Port Colborne (Ont)	P&K Philps
* Nor. Saw-whet Owl	21	1	Port Colborne (Ont)	P&K Philps
Red-headed Wdpkr.	18	2	Burt	Galas, Rising, Bearss
Northern Shrike	11	1	Niag.-on-the-Lake (Ont)	Hogenbirk et al
"	15 - 28	1	Throughout WNY	6 other reports
Common Raven	1	1	Arkwright	Yoerg
"	8, 22	2, 2	Allegany SP	Baird
Horned Lark	5	26	Bethany	Beattie
"	14	58	Dunkirk Airport	Neveu
"	22	29	Busti	Berry
Carolina Wren	1 - 28	1	Eden (f)	Andrle
"	2 - 22	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	22, 26	1	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	25	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Eastern Bluebird	1	15	Sheridan	Neveu
"	7	1	Fort Niagara SP	Landon
"	7; 10	6; 5	Dunkirk Airport	Watson, Pawlicki; Neveu
"	21	1	Eden (f)	Andrle
"	24	11	Perrysburg	Neveu
"	28	2	Busti	Berry
* Gray Catbird	17	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Northern Mockingbird	7	1	Queenston Res. (Ont)	Yoerg
"	21	1	Wilson	D'Anna et al
"	25	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Cedar Waxwing	4	80	Fredonia	Goetz
<u>Spotted Towhee</u>	1; 10	1	Port Colborne (Ont)	Lazarczyk; D'Anna et al

<u>Species</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Lapland Longspur	5	7	Bethany	Beattie
Snow Bunting	5	175	Bethany	Beattie
"	25	11	Dunkirk Airport	Neveu
<u>Dickcissel</u>	1-28	1	Clarence Center	Abgott
"	7	1	Clarence Center	Morgante
"	24	1	Clarence Center	Watson, Pawlicki
"	26	1	Clarence Center	Lazarczyk et al
Red-w. Blackbird	20F	2	Williamsville	Salembier
"	28	22	Bethany	Beattie
Common Grackle	27F, 28	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Brown-head. Cowbird	17	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Purple Finch	2	1	Colden	J Landau
"	4	1	Williamsville	Salembier
White-w. Crossbill	4	20	Lancaster	Morgante
"	7	21	Newfane	D'Anna, Potter
"	21	20	Wilson	D'Anna et al
"	21	15	Carlton	D'Anna et al
"	1 - 28	1 - 12	Throughout BOS region	19 other reports
Common Redpoll	15	15	Fort Erie (Ont)	D'Anna et al
"	15	50	Pt. Breeze	Yoerg, Henderson
"	21	275	Carlton	D'Anna et al
"	1 - 28	1 - 11	Throughout BOS region	7 other reports
* <u>Hoary Redpoll</u>	16	1	Wilson (f)	D'Anna, Potter
Pine Siskin	1 - 28	25 - 50	Wilson (f)	Potter, D'Anna
"	1 - 28	2 - 38	Williamsville	Salembier
"	2, 11	28, 83	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	8	70	Youngstown (f)	Landon, Yonker
"	15	40	Fredonia	Goetz
"	1 - 25	1 - 30	Throughout WNY	11 other reports

Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded this year:	120 (see note III)
Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded this month:	009
<u>Total for the year 2008:</u>	<u>129</u>

Statisticians' Note I: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision.

Statisticians' Note II: We are asking members of the BOS and any other birders who send in reports to the BOS to advise us as soon as they can of any possible errors in regard to records published in the Prothonotary, particularly in the Noteworthy Records so that we can make any necessary changes as soon as appropriate.

Statisticians' Note III: Brendan Klick notified us after publication of the January 2009 noteworthy records that the Red Crossbills he reported in Snyder on January 5 were actually White-winged Crossbills. Therefore, the record of Red Crossbills has been deleted.

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May – June Calendar

BOS website

<http://www.bosbirding.org/>



Buffalo-Niagara Region

Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

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Mar. 1 - May 15: Hamburg Hawkwatch at Lakeside Memorial Park in Hamburg (off Camp Rd. between Routes 5 & 20). Generally 10 AM - 3 PM, "weather permitting". Weekday volunteers needed! Contact Jim Landau for additional info (941-3869 or kjlandau@localnet.com).

May 9: Saturday. Tifft Nature Preserve. Meet at the Tifft NP parking lot (off Fuhrmann Blvd.) at 8:00 AM. Leader: Bill Bogacki (435-4426).

May 13: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Chuck Rosenburg, NYSDEC wildlife biologist, will present results of his research on "Identification of Critical Habitats for Wintering Short-eared Owls in Western New York."

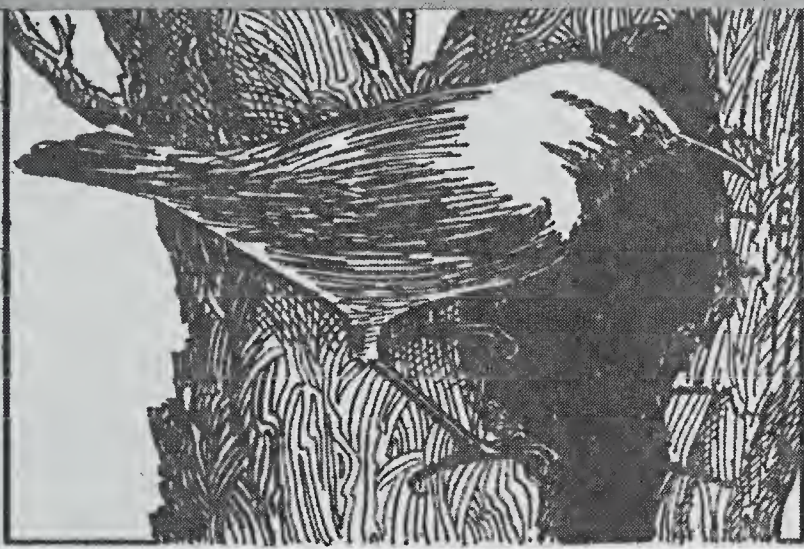
May 17: Sunday. May Bird Count. Coordinator: Robert DeLeon (626-0325 or rldeleon@yahoo.com). All BOS members should participate.

May 22-24: 2009 Great Lakes Raptor Conference, hosted by Ripley Hawk Watch at the Chautauqua Institution. Up-to-date information about the conference, field trips, housing, and registration is available at www.hmana.org. In addition to the conference, a birding trip is planned to Presque Isle (Ohio) and dinner and wine tasting at the Noble Winery. Contact Gil Randell (716)753-2333 or by email at: janngil@fairpoint.net

June 4-7: Roger Tory Peterson Birding Festival. To mark the 100th Birthday of Roger Tory Peterson the RTPi is planning 28 workshops/field-trips led by Pete Dunne, Kenn Kaufmann, John Rappole, Lang Elliott, Scott Stoleson and others. Registration is \$60/day. Information <http://www.rtpi.org> or Jim Berry at (716) 665-2473 x225 or jberry@rtpi.org

June 10: Wednesday. Annual June Picnic will be held at Tifft Nature Preserve, followed by a short field trip of the preserve. Bring your own food and we will eat at 6:00 PM near the Visitor Center.

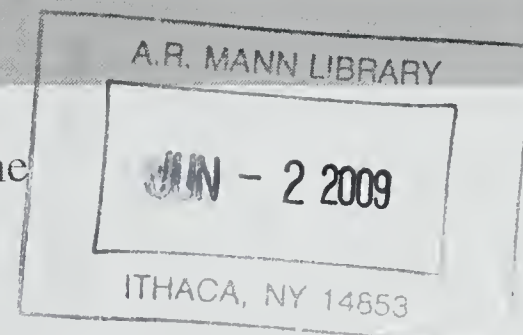
The PROTHONOTARY



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THE MONTH: March

Tim Baird

March 2009 weather can be summarized in three words—a welcome change. To those of us who grew weary of our ‘old-fashioned winter’, March brought an abrupt change of season.

Total snowfall for the month was an easy to ignore 0.5 inch that fell well short of the normal 11.9 inches for March. The only March on record with less snow was in 1946 when only a “trace” fell. A lack of cold air masses and an ice covered Lake Erie combined to keep frozen precipitation to a minimum. Precipitation was mostly rain and the total of 3.25 inches was 0.26 inches above normal with much of the rain falling during the second week of the month, including 1.39 inches over 24 hours on the 7th. The rain event during the second week brought the threat of flooding to the region on the 8th and 9th of the month.

Temperature averaged 1.1°F above the 35.4°F normal for March. There were 13 days with the temperature peaking at 50°F or better in notable contrast to March 2008 when only two days reached the 50°F plateau. No records for temperature were set during March 2009. March 3rd had the lowest reading of 7°F and the maximum for the month was 61°F on the 25th.

Sunshine added to March’s pleasant weather by beating the 46% normal for March by 13%. Twelve days received 80% or better sunshine. Lake Erie started the month mostly frozen, but March’s warmth led to a nearly ice free lake by month’s end.

Not surprisingly, the hawk watches at Hamburg and Ripley had a good month. Ripley counts do not start until the 13th, while Hamburg counts start on the 1st, still it is interesting how similar the hawk watch records for Hamburg and Ripley compare for March 2009 (prior to the 13th, Hamburg only had 3% of its March total). Data for both

numbers totaled 7,236 at Hamburg and 7,267 at Ripley. A warming trend on the 23rd through 25th of the month brought a strong flight to both locations. Hamburg and Ripley, on these three days preceding the passage of a cold front, recorded 3,189 birds (44% of the month’s total) and 3,099 (43% of the month’s total) birds respectively.

Each hawk watch reported a single Golden Eagle for the month. Ripley recorded a sighting on March 16th and a bird flew past Hamburg on March 13th verified for the Buffalo Ornithological Society records by Pawlicki and Hamilton. Another possible Golden Eagle was briefly described and reported as “well-seen” by Wheeler from Orleans County on March 14th. Bald Eagles continue to have a strong presence at the hawk watches. Hamburg totaled 20 Bald Eagles for the month and Ripley 32. Perhaps the larger Ripley total is related to the site location a little nearer to the shore of Lake Erie. In addition to a single Northern Goshawk at the Ripley site on March 13th, Pawlicki and Klick found a goshawk in the Town of Yates on the 28th which they described as a second year bird.

Observers counted 6,145 Turkey Vultures (85% of the month’s total count) at Hamburg and 6,251 Turkey Vultures (86% of the month’s total count) at Ripley for the month. These numbers represent a spectacular showing for a species that prior to the early 20th century was notably



Boreal Owl photographed by Willie D’Anna at Wilson-Tuscarora State Park on March 27, 2009.

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sites can be found at the Hawk Migration Association of North America website. Raptor and vulture

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rare in New York State. Conversely, the Black Vulture remains a rare bird of passage in western New York. Hamburg recorded single birds on the 13th (verified by Pawlicki and Hamilton) and 23rd (verified by Watson), and Ripley records report one on the 7th. As climate apparently warms, can we expect a change in status of the Black Vulture in our region that parallels the northward expansion for the Turkey Vulture that occurred in the 20th Century and is currently occurring for the Black Vulture in southeastern New York as documented in *The Second Atlas of Breeding Bird In New York State* (2008, Cornell University Press)?

The Sandhill Crane is another species hinting at a population shift into New York, this time from the west. Two Sandhill Cranes were observed at Delaware Park on the 22nd by Henderson. This writer received a verbal report and a photograph

without submission of written verification of what would be an early, and very rare for Cattaraugus County, Sandhill Crane observed on March 13th at the Zaefel Nature Sanctuary in the Town of Napoli.

It is safe to say that one does not generally associate pelicans with western New York. However, Chautauqua Lake hosted two American White Pelicans in March. These birds were first reported by a resident near the lake, and then observed by Berry and Sundell on the 25th. The two pelicans were subsequently observed by others and nicely verified by Berry for the 25th, Beattie for the 28th and Watson for the 29th. Although the birds tended to stay far from observers, substantiating photographs of the pelicans were provided by Beattie and Berry, while Watson opted to withhold a photo he described as "two white blobs".

Waterfowl continue a dominant presence in March as late winter holdovers, spring migrants, and returning summer residents begin to mix. An uncommon, but becoming regular, Eurasian Wigeon in the Town of Alexander was verified by Beattie on the 21st and again by Mitchell for the 22nd. The BOS statisticians reviewed verification reports

for Ross's Goose. Reports were received for a sighting from the Tonawanda WMA on the 22nd (Yoerg) and another for a bird at Buffalo Harbor on the 28th (Klick and Pawlicki). While the identifications were considered very likely correct, the statisticians felt that both sightings lacked some pertinent details due to the conditions of observation. Therefore, the Ross's Goose reports were concluded by the statisticians to be probable, but not verified.

By far, the 8,000 Canvasbacks reported by the Sugg's on the Niagara River on March 1st, comes in first place for number of waterfowl this March. Records since 1964 show the only March reported with more Canvasbacks is 2007 when Lazarczyk counted 9,160 off Grand Island. Records also show that the Common Goldeneye numbering 1,650 at Dunkirk Harbor on the 13th reported by Neveu and the 291 Red-necked Grebes along the Lake Ontario shore on the 21st reported by D'Anna are maximum numbers reported for a March date. It is not a stretch to conclude that such numbers indicate the lakes and Niagara River provide a productive food source, particularly aquatic invertebrates (including zebra mussels?), for waterfowl.

An early Great Egret was verified at the Hamburg Hawk Watch by Watson and Pawlicki on March 9th. Watson and Pawlicki watched as the egret attempted to land at a small pond that had attracted a crowd of gulls, but then decided against it and flew off. The bird was photographed in flight by Pawlicki. Yoerg verified an early American Bittern on the 29th requiring written verification by one day. He heard the bird 'singing' in a cattail marsh at the Tonawanda WMA in Royalton. On the same walk at the complex, Yoerg heard an early Virginia Rail calling and described in his verification the rail's "unmistakable" "Wak, Wak, Wak, Wak, Wak..." descending in volume.

Late in the month, Wilson-Tuscarora State Park on the Lake Ontario shore provided good owl records including Long-eared Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, and a Boreal Owl found on the 27th by Potter. Potter and D'Anna, Pawlicki, and Salembier submitted verification reports for this northern visitor. Salembier had the added excitement of having the Boreal Owl as a "lifer". The only report of Snowy Owl came from Yoerg who observed one at the Niagara Falls Airport on the 12th.

Passerine species are coming and going in March. Considering two arrivals that are heavily dependent upon flying insects, the first Eastern Phoebe was found on March 24th at Grand Island by Sharon, and the earliest Tree Swallow report came from Mitchell who found one at the Batavia Wastewater Treatment plant on the 16th. The only warbler report was a single Yellow-rumped Warbler seen on the 13th in Orchard Park by Zebehazy. The last week of the month observers noted the first arrival of Eastern Towhee, Field Sparrow, and Fox Sparrow. Salembier reported the first E. Meadowlark at Tiff Nature Preserve on March 14th. Indications that the Red-winged Blackbird migration was well underway in early March came from Watson as he counted 441 at the Hamburg Hawk Watch on March 5th.

(The Month - continued on page 36)

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Eighth Edition - Revised 2007) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration.

(f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicates nest(s). (yg) Indicates young.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

<u>Species</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
* Gr. White-fr. Goose	15F	8	Oak Orchard WMA	Yoerg et al
* Snow Goose	10F	7	Pomfret	Mosher
"	13	2	Porter	Sharon
"	15	2	Oak Orchard WMA	Yoerg et al
"	20	2	Yates	Potter, Salembier
"	28	22	Yates	Pawlicki, Klick
"	28	1	Oakfield	Pawlicki, Klick
* Cackling Goose	9F	2	Lewiston	D'Anna
"	9F; 13	1; 5	Iroquois NWR	Salembier; Yoerg et al
"	11; 15; 31	1; 3; 1	Oak Orchard WMA	Pawlicki; D'Anna; Watson
"	14, 17	5, 9	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki et al
"	21	2	Somerset	D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	21	3	Yates	D'Anna et al
"	22, 29	2, 2	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg, Wheeler et al
Mute Swan	2, 9	3, 3	Motor I.	Watson
"	3, 11	5, 2	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	29	1	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
Tundra Swan	7	14	Salamanca	Baird
"	10	52	Rushford & Farmersville	Lazarczyk, Watson
"	12	85	Batavia	Beattie et al
"	13	40	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
"	14	66	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	19; 22	370; 16	Iroquois NWR	Sowinski; Salembier
Wood Duck	7	1	Porter	D'Anna, Potter
"	12	3	Alexander	Beattie et al
"	12	1	Mouth of Catt. Creek	Neveu
"	13	16	Royalton	Salembier
Gadwall	8F; 13	10; 30	Iroquois NWR	Watson et al; Salembier
"	8F	3	Alexander	Dart
* Eurasian Wigeon	<u>21, 22</u>	1	Alexander	Beattie, Dart
"	<u>22</u>	1	Alexander	Mitchell
American Wigeon	11	300	Tonawanda WMA	Sowinski
"	31	182	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
American Black Duck	4	28	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	6	12	Sheridan	Neveu
* Blue-winged Teal	12F; 22	2; 4	Alexander	Dart; Mitchell
* Northern Shoveler	8F; 19	2; 10	Iroquois NWR	Watson; Sowinski
"	11	5	Alexander	Dart
"	28	20	Conewango	Baird (CCBC)

<u>Species</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Northern Pintail	11; 13	178; 750	Iroquois NWR	Watson; Yoerg, Salembier
"	31	110	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
Green-winged Teal	6	2	Wilson Harbor	D'Anna
"	10	75	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell
Canvasback	1	8000	Niagara River	D&D Suggs
"	6	2100	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	10F	29	Batavia	Dart, Beattie
"	27	24	North Harmony	Neveu
Redhead	4	72	Celeron	Neveu
"	4	57	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	8F	11	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Ring-necked Duck	8F	9	Newstead	Watson
"	8F; 13	148; 500	Tonawanda WMA	Watson; Yoerg
"	13	107	Fredonia	Neveu
"	21	126	Hanover	Neveu
Greater Scaup	4, 10	1271, 1582	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	27	80	Buffalo Harbor	Watson
Lesser Scaup	11F, 31	18, 41	Batavia WWTP	Watson
King Eider	14	1	Vineland (Ont)	D'Anna et al
Surf Scoter	13	1	Fort Niagara SP	Sharon
"	15	2	Times Beach NP	Wheeler
"	22	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	28	3	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki, Klick
White-winged Scoter	1	55	Fort Niagara SP	Salembier
"	3	2	Celeron	Neveu, Miller
"	13	10	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Black Scoter	1	1	Fort Niagara SP	Salembier
"	21	2	Pt Breeze	D'Anna
Long-tailed Duck	3	1	Celeron	Neveu
"	19F	2	Iroquois NWR	Sowinski
"	22	2	Oakfield	Yoerg
"	29	1	South Dayton	Watson
Bufflehead	8F	1	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	11	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Common Goldeneye	8F; 22	1; 3	Tonawanda WMA	Watson; Yoerg
"	13	1650	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Hooded Merganser	6F	4	Wilson Harbor	D'Anna
"	11	48	Bethany	Watson
Red-br. Merganser	2	500	Somerset	D'Anna et al (BOS)
Ruddy Duck	11F, 31	4, 36	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	19; 28	4; 2	Iroquois NWR	Sowinski; Salembier
"	27	17	North Harmony	Neveu
"	29	4	Chautauqua L.	Watson
* Ruffed Grouse	13	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	15	5	Allegany SP	Baird
Red-throated Loon	7	3	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna
"	21	13	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	21	1	Yates	D'Anna, DiTommaso
* Common Loon	21F	1	Shadigee	D'Anna et al
"	27	1	Barker	Sharon
Pied-billed Grebe	15	1	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna
Horned Grebe	10F	1	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
"	11	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	28	30	Somerset	D'Anna et al (BOS)

<u>Species</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Red-necked Grebe	8	5	Buckhorn I. SP	Sharon
"	18	24	Golden Hill SP	Salembier
"	21	291	Somerset to Pt Breeze	D'Anna et al
"	21	3	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	22	1	Iroquois NWR	Wheeler
"	28	195	Somerset	D'Anna et al (BOS)
"	28	110	Shadigee	D'Anna et al (BOS)
"	28	120	Yates	Pawlicki, Klick
* <u>Amer. White Pelican</u>	25	2	Chautauqua L.	Berry et al
"	28; 29	2	Chautauqua L.	Beattie; Watson
* <u>American Bittern</u>	<u>29F</u>	1	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg
Great Blue Heron	9, 14	37, 46	Motor I.	Watson
* <u>Great Egret</u>	<u>9F</u>	1	Hamburg	Watson, Pawlicki
"	25	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	28	1	Conewango	Baird (CCBC)
"	30 - 31	2	Motor I.	Watson
Black-cr. Night-Heron	9	8	Strawberry I.	Pawlicki, Watson
"	22	10	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
"	31	3	Motor I.	Watson
* <u>Black Vulture</u>	13	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Pawlicki, Hamilton
"	23	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
Turkey Vulture	4F	1; 1	Amherst	D'Anna; Salembier
* <u>Osprey</u>	28F; 29	1; 1	Tonawanda WMA	O'Donnells; D&D Suggs
"	28F; 29	1; 2	Allegheny Reservoir	Baird (CCBC); Watson
"	29	2; 2	Iroquois NWR	Wheeler; D&D Suggs
"	29	1	South Dayton	Watson
Bald Eagle	6	1 ad + n	Navy I. (Ont)	Watson
"	8	5 + n	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	15	5	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson; Zebehazy et al
"	15	2 + n	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	28	1 ad + n	Allegheny Reservoir	Baird
"	29	1 ad + n	South Dayton	Watson
* <u>Northern Goshawk</u>	28F	1 (2nd yr)	Yates	Pawlicki, Klick
Red-shouldered Hawk	1F	2	Orchard Park	Morgante
"	13, 16	1, 1	Ward, Alfred	Brooks
"	14	14	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
"	14	1	Alden	Mitchell
Rough-legged Hawk	1	3	South Dayton	Mitchell
"	8	1 dk	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	8	1 lt	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	9	1	Clarence	Salembier
"	12	1	Alexander	Beattie
"	12, 14	1, 1	Alfred	Brooks
<u>Golden Eagle</u>	13	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Pawlicki, Hamilton et al
Merlin	3, 6, 20	1, 2, 1	UB south campus	Yoerg
"	7	1	Buffalo	Yoerg
"	21F	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Pawlicki, Deleons et al
"	28	1	Yates	Pawlicki, Klick
Peregrine Falcon	16	1 imm	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson, Pawlicki
"	21, 24	2 + n	UB south campus	Yoerg
"	28	1 ad	Grand I.	Pawlicki, Klick
"	28	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Pawlicki, Klick
* <u>Virginia Rail</u>	<u>29F</u>	1	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg
American Coot	15F	3	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna
* <u>Sandhill Crane</u>	22F	2	Delaware Park	Henderson

<u>Species</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
* Killdeer	6F	3	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	8	1	Alden	Mitchell
* Greater Yellowlegs	27F; 29	1; 2	Iroquois NWR	Sharon; Yoerg
* Lesser Yellowlegs	<u>10;12</u>	1; 1	Batavia	Dart, Beattie; Dart
* Pectoral Sandpiper	28F	1	Four Mile Creek SP	Pawlicki
Purple Sandpiper	22; 29	1; 1	Goat I.	Watson et al; Wheeler
* Wilson's Snipe	18F	1	Dunkirk Airport	Neveu
"	22	1	Alexander	Beattie
"	28	30	Randolph	Baird (CCBC)
* American Woodcock	12F	1	Pomfret	Mosher
"	14	2	Alden	Mitchell
Little Gull	5; 28	7; 11	Lewiston	Sharon; Pawlicki, Klick
Iceland Gull	11	5	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
"	15	1	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna, Guthrie
"	22, 28	2, 8	Goat I.	Pawlicki et al
"	26, 29	2, 2	Porter	D'Anna
Lesser Black-b. Gull	11	2	Jaeger Rocks (Ont)	Yoerg
"	13; 15	1; 1	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg; D'Anna, Guthrie
"	15	1	Oak Orchard WMA	D'Anna, Guthrie
"	22, 28	3, 2	Goat I.	Pawlicki et al
"	26, 29	3, 1	Porter	D'Anna
Glaucous Gull	7; 28	1; 1	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna; Pawlicki, Klick
"	22	1	Niagara Falls	Pawlicki, Watson
"	28	1	Goat I.	Pawlicki, Klick
"	29	2	Porter	D'Anna
Snowy Owl	12	1	Niagara Falls Airport	Yoerg
* Barred Owl	13	1	Alfred	Cushing, Brooks
Long-eared Owl	21	1	Four Mile Creek SP	Wheeler
"	27	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter, Salembier
"	28	1	Hartland	Pawlicki, Klick
Short-eared Owl	11	1	Royalton	Pawlicki, Watson
"	12	4	Cambria	Yoerg
"	28	3	Hartland	Pawlicki, Klick
* <u>Boreal Owl</u>	27	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter, D'Anna, Pawlicki, Salembier et al
Nor. Saw-whet Owl	22 - 31	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter
"	29	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Wheeler
Red-headed Wdpkr.	28	1	Newfane	Pawlicki, Klick
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	1	1	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	8	1	Bond Lake CP	Wheeler
"	22	1	Alexander	Beattie
* Eastern Phoebe	24F	1	Grand I.	Sharon
"	26	1	Pomfret	Mosher
"	26	1	Alden	Mitchell
Northern Shrike	1	1	Youngstown	Salembier
"	8; 13	1; 1	Iroquois NWR	Watson et al; Yoerg et al
"	13	1	Pomfret	Mosher
"	14	1	Lancaster	Mitchell
"	28	1	Porter	Pawlicki, Klick
Common Raven	9	1	South Dayton	Neveu
"	13	2	Alfred	Brooks
"	15	2	Colden	J&K Landau
"	16	2	Ward	Brooks
"	28	2	Conewango	Baird (CCBC)
"	29	2	Poland	Watson

<u>Species</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
* Tree Swallow	16F	1	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell
"	22	35	Iroquois NWR	Wheeler
Carolina Wren	14, 20	1	Beaver I. SP	Hess
"	19,23,28	2	Mouth of Catt. Creek	Neveu
"	28	1	Chautauqua L.	Wheeler
Winter Wren	16	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Golden-cr. Kinglet	23F	1	Wilson-Tusc. SP	Potter
Northern Mockingbird	14	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	16	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	17	1	Dunkirk	Goetz
"	24	1	Woodlawn	Salembier
Yellow-r. Warbler	13	1	Orchard Park	W Zebehazy
Eastern Towhee	26F	2	Colden	J Landau
"	26F, 28	1, 1	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	28	1	Evans	Neveu
Field Sparrow	28F	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
* Fox Sparrow	24F	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
White-cr. Sparrow	28	1	Porter	Pawlicki, Klick
Lapland Longspur	28	2	Yates	D'Anna (BOS)
Snow Bunting	10	400	Eagle	Lazarczyk, Watson
"	15	2	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
"	18	3	Eden	Andrle
<u>Dickcissel</u>	1-31	1	Clarence Center	Abgott
Red-w. Blackbird	5	441	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
Eastern Meadowlark	14F	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	15	2	Dunkirk Airport	Neveu
"	22	5	Tillman Road WMA	Salembier
Rusty Blackbird	8F	15	Mouth of Catt. Creek	Neveu
"	9	165	South Dayton	Neveu
"	14	40	Clarence	Sowinski
Brown-head. Cowbird	8F	2	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	10	3	Rushford	Watson
Purple Finch	17	2	Bethany	Beattie
"	18	5	Wilson (f)	Potter, D'Anna
"	22	3	Silver Creek	Neveu
White-w. Crossbill	1-12	2	Fredonia(f)	Goetz
"	10	26	Rushford	Lazarczyk, Watson
"	22	25	Eggertsville	D&D Suggs
"	30	15	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	1 - 28	2 - 21	Throughout WNY	13 other reports
Common Redpoll	6	43	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	12	40	Alexander	Beattie et al
"	5 - 29	1 - 42	Throughout WNY	6 other reports
<u>Hoary Redpoll</u>	6	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
Pine Siskin	8 - 31	112 band	Alfred	Brooks
"	1 - 31	1 - 65	Throughout WNY	17 other reports

Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded this year: 129

Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded this month: 027

Total for the year 2009: 156

Statisticians' Note I: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision.

Statisticians' Note II: We are asking members of the BOS and any other birders who send in reports to the BOS to advise us as soon as they can of any possible errors in regard to records published in the Prothonotary, particularly in the Noteworthy Records so that we can make any necessary changes as soon as appropriate.

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June – July Calendar

June 4-7: Roger Tory Peterson Birding Festival. Information <http://www.rtpi.org> or Jim Berry at (716) 665-2473 x225 or jberry@rtpi.org

June 10: Wednesday. Annual June Picnic will be held at Tifft NP at 6PM, followed by a short field trip of the preserve.

July 26: Sunday: Canadian shoreline of Lake Erie (including Rock Point PI for shorebirds. Leader: Douglas Happ (649-1297). Meet at 7:00 AM at Vermont and Busti near the Peace Bridge. We will car pool from there. Bring Canadian currency for Rock Point PP, passport, or enhanced drivers license.

(The Month - continued from page 30)

Winter holdovers are not unusual for March. This winter's Dickcissel remained throughout the month at the Abgott residence in Clarence Center. Sing Northern Shrike reports were well scattered throughout the month. Lazarczyk and Watson estimated 400 Snow Buntings in the Town of Eagle on March 10th. A Hoary Redpoll was found and verified by Watson at Buckhorn Island SP. He observed the redpoll at an angle allowing him an excellent look at "...NO visible streaking on the under tail coverts." He concluded that this was a female, and along with other field marks noted by Watson, the lack of streaking on the under tail coverts made an important distinction between Hoary and Common Redpoll.

White-winged Crossbills and Pine Siskins continued a strong presence in western New York throughout the month. Will nesting records surface in the region for either of these species? Notable is Brooks's banding report from her station in the Town of Alfred where she banded 112 Pine Siskins during March. Her recapture of previously banded birds included a Blue Jay, two Black-capped Chickadees, and a Tree Sparrow that had reached their fifth year. This type of information highlights the value of consistent banding in a location to a better understanding of the lives of our birds.

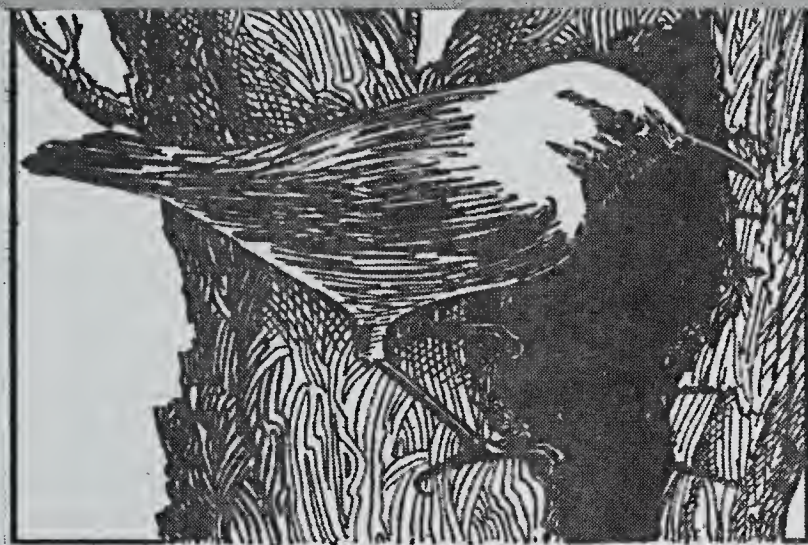
March is always fun for those of us interested in birds. Come to think of it, what month isn't? I thank David Suggs for providing some waterfowl records, and Mike Morgante and Gerry Rising for suggestions making this summary a better and more accurate read.

BOS website

<http://www.bosbirding.org/>



Buffalo-Niagara Region
Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271



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THE MONTH: April

Bill Watson

The Weather: On average the month was a mild, tranquil with an average temperature of 46.7 °F, only 1.4 degrees warmer than average. Buffalo Harbor was free of ice on the 13th, only four days early. The total precipitation of 3.15 inches was very close to the average of 3.04 inches; however, the March-April snowfall of 2.5 inches was the lowest in 63 years. It was another sunny month with 60% possible sunshine, 10% above average. The first week was chilly and wet with a high of only 31 °F and 1.1 inches of snow on the 7th. The next two weeks were very dry and sunny with moderate temperatures, while the final week was a taste of summer with the temperature reaching 80 °F on the 25th and 27th, making it the first April in 15 years to have at least two 80-degree days. April 24-27 experienced a low pressure over Lake Superior, a high pressure off the Atlantic coast, and a cold front slowly moved across the Great Lakes toward Buffalo. These systems pumped a flow of strong warm southwest wind across the Midwest and Western New York. On the 25th, 26th, and 27th peak winds were from the southwest at 39, 25, and 35 mph and the temperatures averaged more than 17 degrees above normal. The fact that of the month's 19 early arrivals requiring verification reports, 13 arrived in this brief three-day period is certainly a testament to the influence of weather on migration. This unusually warm weather was also probably responsible for many of the 19 warbler species found in the April Noteworthy Records, the most since Noteworthy Records were first published in 1935!

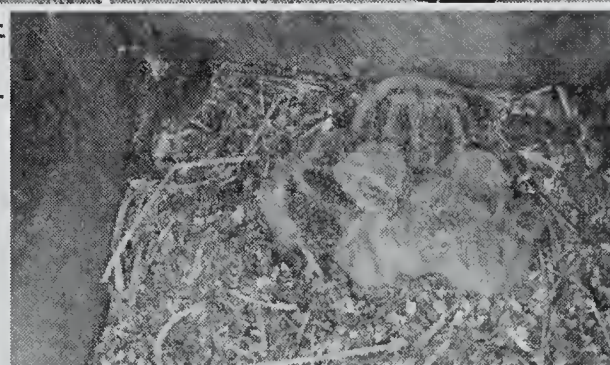
described characteristics of the bird: "14 inches in length; it rail-like in shape, though it had a shorter bill with a distinctive bright red shield; the bird was generally dark gray with a bold white undertail, and a lightly streaked flank." The only earlier record was a moorhen seen on the April 4, 1993, BOS April Count. The two Chimney Swifts found by David Gordon and Victoria Rothman on the 9th at Cayuga Pool constitute our second earliest record. The earliest arrival of Chimney Swift is April 5th (Eaton 1953). The two Eastern Kingbirds observed on the April Count in Wainfleet, Ontario, by Richard Byron represent the fourth earliest record in our area. April 10th Richard Salembier observed a swallow with a "dark brown horizontal breast band" at Tillman WMA in Clarence. The only earlier report of a Bank Swallow is April 7th (Beardslee and Mitchell 1965). On the 27th David Gordon found three Swainson's Thrushes in Forest Lawn Cemetery. The only earlier record is one seen on April 26, 1939, by Savage and Mitchell at Delaware Park.

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Early arrivals:
Although Common Moorhen have been known to winter in our area, the bird documented at Cayuga Pool, Iroquois NWR by Chris Hollister on April 5th is an early arrival. Chris



Nesting Northern Saw-whet Owl photographed by Dawn Pierynowski in Niagara Falls, Ontario on April 18, 2009. Clockwise from upper left: the nest box, close-up of adult female, and nestlings.



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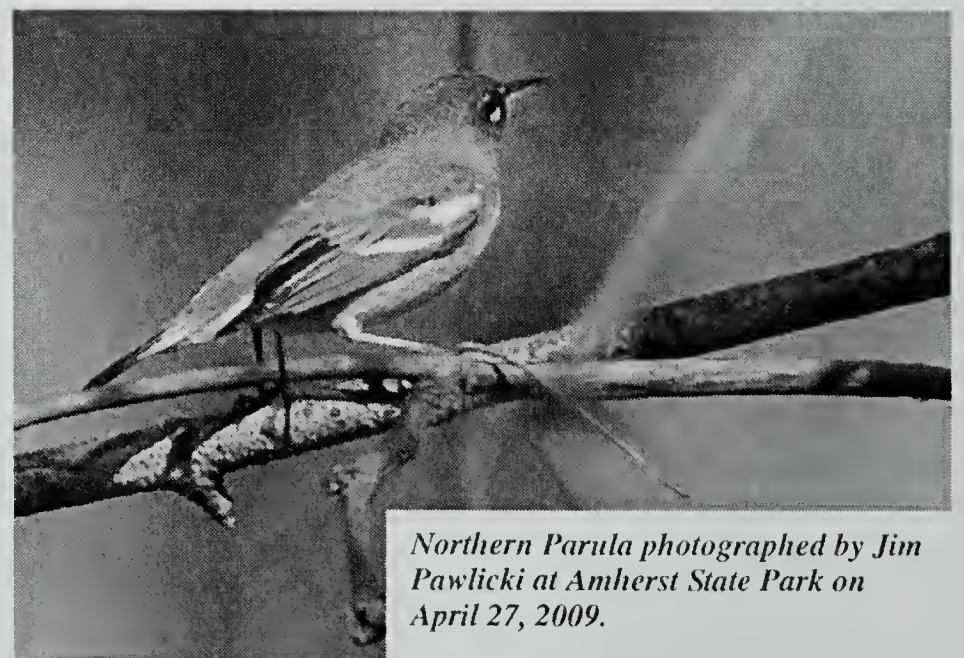
Melissa Mance found and photographed a Blue-winged Warbler at Wilson-Tuscarora State Park on the 26th. The only earlier Blue-winged Warbler arrived on the astonishingly early date of April 7, 1947, and observed by the Matlocks in West Falls. In that year a severe storm in the Oklahoma-Texas region was likely responsible for the extraordinarily early Blue-winged Warbler and likely two Hooded Warbler reports in the BOS study area and other unusually early Hooded Warbler reports in the northeast (Gunn and Crocker 1951). Our earliest ever Golden-winged Warbler was documented by Scott Meier this year on the 25th at Amherst State Park. David Neveu at Saint Columbans in Sheridan also saw our second earliest Golden-winged warbler this year on the 27th. The next earliest records of the species are four individuals on the 28th in

the early 1990's. Two Northern Parulas were found and documented by Mike Morgante at Amherst State Park on the 27th. Later at least one of these early birds were seen and documented by Richard Salembier and Jim Pawlicki. The only earlier record of Northern Parula is one found on Goat Island on April 20, 1995 by Don Roberson. The two Yellow Warblers reported on the April 19th Count by Richard Byron at Rock Point Provincial Park now represent the earliest record of this species. Our earliest ever Chestnut-sided Warblers (two of them) were found this year on April 27th by Betsy Potter in her back yard in Wilson. She first recognized them by their 'please-please-pleased-to-meetcha' song, but took the time to find and study them in her binoculars, just to make sure. The previous early Chestnut-sided Warblers were ones seen on the 28th in 1981, 1990, and 1994. Also on the 27th David Gordon found an early Magnolia Warbler at Forest Lawn Cemetery tying the early record of Beattie and Dart in Alexander last year. Dave got out Sibley field guide to check and held it in one hand and viewed the bird with binoculars in the other and compared and confirmed the yellow throat, breast, and under parts, the heavy black streaking down from the black neckline, the white wing patches as opposed to white wing

bars for the yellow-rumped, the white tail patches, and the wide black stripe over its eye. Also on April 27th while birding north of the fitness center at Amherst State Park, Peter Yoerg found a beautiful male Scarlet Tanager, which was also observed and documented by Richard Salembier and Jim Pawlicki. Although Beardslee and Mitchell give an early date of the 22nd for this species, the only earlier report with details is from April 19, 1975, by Elderkin and Pillsbury at Burgeson Sanctuary, Frewsburg.

Jim Pawlicki found a Lincoln's Sparrow at Oak Orchard Marine State Park near Point Breeze April 25th that ties our earliest ever records. At Tifft Nature Preserve on the 26th Richard Salembier also observed a "small sparrow-sized bird and quickly noted its broad gray eyebrow; narrow, whitish eye-ring; and very finely streaked white throat, bordered below by a buffy-washed breast with fine, blackish streaks. Thinking I knew what I had, I worked even more quickly..." Sal then gave a very detailed description of exactly what he saw. The only earlier records of Lincoln's Sparrow, all on the 25th, are this year's record mentioned above, one in 2001 at Tifft Nature Preserve by Chilton, and one in 1957 at Forest Lawn by Axtell. An Indigo Bunting was found on the 27th by Don Roberson. It was eating sunflower seed at his feeder in Niagara Falls. Although there were a few Indigo Bunting records at the end of April or near the beginning of May from 1942 to 1954, between 1963 and 2006 inclusively its earliest arrival date was May 1. Then in 2007 Indigo Buntings were recorded on April 15th near the entrance to Morgan's Point and on the 26th at Jim Landau's feeder. It will be interesting to see if this trend continues. April 25th while birding Van Buren Road pond in Pomfret, David Neveu watched a Bobolink land on a bush. This Bobolink and one in Porter in 1990 represent our earliest Bobolinks. On the 27th another Bobolink was found by Joe Mitchell on Wortendyke Road in Batavia. There are only three earlier arrivals of the species in the BOS study area. On the 29th and 30th David Neveu had an Orchard Oriole enjoying the grape jelly at his feeding station in Silver Creek morning and afternoon. This early arrival is only our second April record. The earliest arrival was April 23, 1960 at Morgan's Point, Ont.

Early Breeding Records: Northern Saw-whet Owl is a clandestine breeder in our region, so you can imagine



Northern Parula photographed by Jim Pawlicki at Amherst State Park on April 27, 2009.

Joseph F. Pierrynowski's surprise when he opened a nest box in his Niagara Falls, Ontario backyard on April 18th for spring cleaning and a female Northern Saw-whet Owl burst out revealing four young birds in the bottom of the box. Kayo Roy found no "confirmed or documented record of nesting for this species" in the Niagara Region of Ontario. "Brad Clements has for more than 25 years compiled The Ontario Nest Records Scheme for Niagara, and he called me to say that no nest card exists" at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto for a Saw-whet Owl in Niagara (Roy 2009). *Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region* lists Northern Saw-whet Owl nests with young, as being from May 2 to July 16, so this is a record early nestling date for BOS territory. There is little other breeding information. The only breeding record I could find in the 1963-2005 Noteworthy Database was a June 7 & 8, 2001 record of an adult and one young recorded by Elizabeth Brooks. Since the peak of Northern Saw-whet migration is the beginning of April and the eggs have to be incubated for 26-28 days, this is an incredible early breeding date. Although this nest is in Niagara Falls, Ontario, it must be pointed out that the earliest date for nestling in New York State is April 21st (McGowan and Corwin 2008).

Late Departures: Although Purple Sandpiper on the 19th and Common Redpoll on the 23rd are later than usual, there no were extremely late departures requiring verification reports.

Rare Birds: On the 11th Jim Pawlicki amongst several other observers identified an apparent hybrid male American X Eurasian Wigeon at Cayuga Pool at Iroquois NWR. Hybrids can often be problematic and care should be taken in their identification. This bird was at first assumed to be a pure Eurasian Wigeon when initially seen at a distance of about 200 yards, although after flying closer, several features were visible that suggested American Wigeon influence, including a whitish frontal patch, which is usually tinged yellowish in Eurasian Wigeon. Additionally in his verification report Jim pointed out "a 'ghost' American Wigeon head pattern with darker rufous auriculars flaring back towards the nape just below the frontal patch, and a paler rufous throat and neck..." Additionally he noted "...a pinkish breast that blended evenly into the grayish flanks being much less demarcated than on a pure Eurasian Wigeon," and "faint brown tones that were present throughout the body plumage giving the grayish body a 'warmer' look than on pure Eurasian Wigeon..." He also pointed out the similarity of this bird to another apparent hybrid male American x Eurasian Wigeon photographed by Chris Wood at Cayuga Lake in Central New York on March 20, 2009 (See Statisticians' note III on page 45). The wintering **Dickcissel** that arrived at a feeder in Clarence Center on January 27th finally left on April 19th. On the tenth Jim Berry found two **Trumpeter Swans** at the Cheneys Road Marsh in North Harmony. He "was able to see the lower mandible, which exhibits an orange color that ran from the gape to about halfway out the mandible. The gape was straight versus the concave gape of the Tundra Swan. Also, the black line forming the juncture of the eyes and the bill

was 'notched' rather than straight across. The eye appeared to merge with the black of the bill" and other features that distinguish a Trumpeter Swan from a Tundra Swan.

Unusually High Numbers: Here are the locations and numbers of species that have unusually high spring counts in this month's Noteworthy Records followed in parentheses by previous spring high counts for the 1963-2005 Noteworthy Record period: at Wilson, Red-throated Loon 150 (54); at Motor Island, Great Egret 66 (46); at Hamburg Hawk Watch, Turkey Vultures 2460 (1109); at Wilson, Caspian Tern 271 (69); and for an April high, at Goat Island, Iceland Gull 8 (5).

I would like to acknowledge the following sources for providing information and suggestions in the writing of The Month.

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Suggs, David et. al. 2002. *Seasonal Checklist of the Birds - The Niagara Frontier Region*. Buffalo Ornithological Society, Inc.

JUL 14 2009

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Eighth Edition - Revised 2007) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration.

(f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicates nest(s). (yg) Indicates young.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Snow Goose	2	5 bl, 39 wh	Yates	D'Anna, Potter
"	2; 5	1; 1 bl	Iroquois NWR	Salembier; Yoerg et al
Cackling Goose	2	5	Yates	D'Anna
"	2-6L	1	Iroquois NWR	Salembier, Hess
Mute Swan	5	1	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg, Henderson et al
<u>Trumpeter Swan</u>	10 - 12	2	North Harmony	Berry
Tundra Swan	7 - 9	3	Eden	Andrle
"	8	1	Mayville	Neveu
Eurasian Wigeon	4 - 25	1 m	Iroquois NWR	Gordon et al
"	25	1 m	Oak Orchard WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
<u>Am. X Eur. Wigeon</u>	11	1 m	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki et al
American Wigeon	11	64	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Northern Shoveler	11	29	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Green-winged Teal	9	15	Tifft NP	Salembier.
"	11	54	Shelby	Watson
Ring-necked Duck	1	81	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	4	450	Iroq NWR & Tona WMA	Pawlicki, Wheeler et al
"	10	50	North Harmony	Berry
"	26	30	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
Surf Scoter	5	2	Wilson	D'Anna
"	5; 13	3; 1	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna; Yoerg et al
Long-tailed Duck	5	56	Lewiston	Watson
Ruddy Duck	1 - 23	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	6; 14	66; 50	Batavia WWTP	Neveu; Mitchell
"	25	7	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Red-throated Loon	5	105	Wilson	D'Anna, Pawlicki
"	13	1	Four Mile Creek SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	28	1	Celeron	Berry
Common Loon	9	3	Tifft NP	Pawlicki, Salembier
"	14	4	Dayton	Neveu
Red-necked Grebe	5	12	Wilson	D'Anna, Pawlicki
D.-crest. Cormorant	13	192	Motor I.	Watson et al
"	29	138 + 39 n	Strawberry I.	Watson
American Bittern	27	1	Alden	Mitchell
Great Blue Heron	29	99 + 92 n	Motor I.	Watson
Great Egret	27	1	Jamestown	Berry
"	29	66 + 36 n	Motor I.	Watson
* Green Heron	13F	1	Pomfret	Neveu
"	21	1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki, Salembier

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Black-cr. Night-Heron	2; 18	71; 49+10n	Motor I.	Watson
"	13	150	Goat I.	Yoerg, Henderson
Turkey Vulture	2	2460	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson, Rew et al
Osprey	4	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	11	2 ad + n	Iroquois NWR	Watson et al
"	24; 29	2 + n; 1 + n	Tonawanda	Pawlicki, Gordon; Watson
Bald Eagle	1; 5	1; 2 imm	Tonawanda WMA	Salembier; Yoerg et al
"	2	6	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Rew, Watson et al
"	4	1	Dayton	Mitchell
"	11	2 ad + n	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	11	8	North Harmony	Berry
"	25	3 imm	Carlton	Yoerg,
Northern Goshawk	24	1	Newfane	Potter, D'Anna
Broad-winged Hawk	24	510	Carlton to Newfane	D'Anna, Potter
Rough-legged Hawk	5	1	Martin Rd. Swamp	Berry
"	9	1	Tifft NP	Pawlicki, Salembier
"	13	3 lt	Dunkirk Airport	Neveu
"	25	2 dk	Carlton	D'Anna, Yoerg et al
Merlin	13	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
"	25	2	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki, Yoerg et al
"	25	1	Carlton	Yoerg, Henderson et al
"	27	1	Eden	Pawlicki, Watson
Peregrine Falcon	6	1	Buffalo Cent. Terminal	Zebchazys
"	25	1	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki et al
Virginia Rail	10	1	Tillman Road WMA	Salembier
* Sora	26F	1	Tifft NP	Watson
* Common Moorhen	5F	1	Iroquois NWR	Hollister, Friedrich et al
"	26	2	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Pawlicki et al
American Coot	26	103	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Sandhill Crane	2	2	Yates	D'Anna, Potter
"	9	2	Tifft NP	Pawlicki, Salembier et al
"	13	2	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
"	24	4	Carlton	Potter, D'Anna
* Solitary Sandpiper	24F	1	Yates	D'Anna
"	26	1	Villanova	Neveu
"	27	5	Darien Lakes SP	Mitchell
Spotted Sandpiper	27	1	Darien Lakes SP	Mitchell
* Least Sandpiper	30F	2	Sherman	Neveu
Pectoral Sandpiper	25	10	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg, Henderson
Purple Sandpiper	13	1	Goat I.	Yoerg, Henderson
Wilson's Snipe	7	25	Lancaster	Morgante
Little Gull	9, 13	2	Buffalo	Pawlicki
"	10	43	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki, D'Anna et al
"	13	5	Artpark	Yoerg, Henderson
"	28	2	Wilson	D'Anna
* Black-headed Gull	5	1	Lewiston	Pawlicki, D'Anna et al
Bonaparte's Gull	5	3500	Lewiston	Watson et al
"	9, 13	5000	Buffalo	Pawlicki
"	10	5784	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki, D'Anna et al
Iceland Gull	5	2	Lewiston	D'Anna, Watson et al
"	13; 16	1; 8	Goat I.	Yoerg et al; D'Anna
"	28	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	D'Anna
Lesser Black-b. Gull	13, 14	1	Silver Creek mouth	Neveu
"	13; 16	1; 6	Goat I.	Yoerg et al; D'Anna

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	28	2	Wilson	D'Anna
Glaucous Gull	9	1	Buffalo	Pawlicki
"	9	1	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki
"	12, 14	1	Silver Creek mouth	Neveu
"	13; 16	2; 1	Goat I.	Yoerg et al; D'Anna
"	28	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	D'Anna
* Caspian Tern	7F, 10	5, 3	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	18, 28	35, 271	Wilson	D'Anna
* Common Tern	13F	35	Buffalo	Pawlicki
"	13F	4	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	28	53	Wilson	D'Anna
* Forster's Tern	24F	1	Tonawanda	Pawlicki, Gordon
"	30	2	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Short-eared Owl	1	2	Darien	Mitchell
"	13	1	Hamburg	Pawlicki, Watson
Nor. Saw-whet Owl	1	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter
"	18	2, n, 4 yg	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Pierrynowski, Clements
* Whip-poor-will	25F	1	Lakeside Beach SP	D'Anna, Potter et al
* Chimney Swift	9F	15	Iroquois NWR	Gordon et al
"	24	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Yoerg
Red-headed Wdpkr.	28	1	Delaware Pk, Bflo	Pawlicki
* Least Flycatcher	25F	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
"	26	1	Villanova	Neveu
* Gr. Cr. Flycatcher	26F	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
"	27	1	Amherst SP	Morgante; Salembier
"	27	1	Pomfret	Moshers
"	27	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter
Eastern Kingbird	28	1	Darien Lakes SP	Mitchell
Northern Shrike	8L	1	Conewango	Morton
* White-eyed Vireo	30F	2	Tifft NP	Buccieri, Watson, Sharon
* Yellow-thr. Vireo	28F	1	Delaware Pk, Bflo	Pawlicki, Gordon
Blue-headed Vireo	24	1	Ward	Brooks
"	24	1	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Potter
* Warbling Vireo	25F	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	26	1	Busti	Berry
"	26	1	Sheridan	Neveu
Common Raven	17	1	Concord	Morgante
* Purple Martin	14F	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
* N. Rough-w. Swallow	9F	2	Tifft NP	Pawlicki, Salembier et al
"	17	1	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna et al
* Bank Swallow	10F	1	Tillman Road WMA	Salembier
* Barn Swallow	2F	1.	Tonawanda	Watson
"	7	2	Pomfret	Mosher
Carolina Wren	5	1	Jamestown	Berry
"	7	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	21	3	Catt. Creek mouth	Neveu
"	27	1	Amherst SP	Morgante
House Wren	25	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	25	1	Lake Eric SP	Neveu
Winter Wren	1	2	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	2	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Golden-cr. Kinglet	5	22	Tifft NP	Salembier
* Ruby-cr. Kinglet	5F; 9	1; 1	Tifft NP	Salembier; Sharon
"	10	2	Alfred	Brooks
* Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	25F; 26	1; 11	Tifft NP	Morgante; Salembier

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	25F	3	Lake Erie SP	Neveu
"	25F	3	Sheridan	Neveu
* Swainson's Thrush	<u>27F</u>	3	Forest Lawn Cem, Bflo	Gordon
"	28	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Hermit Thrush	5F	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	10	1	North Harmony	Berry
* Wood Thrush	25F	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	26	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
Gray Catbird	25F	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	25F	1	Lakeside Beach SP	D'Anna, Potter
"	26	1	Tifft NP	Salembier, Sharon
N. Mockingbird	23	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
Brown Thrasher	23	2	Tifft NP	Sharon
"	23	1	Pt. Gratiot	Neveu
* American Pipit	2F	75	Yates	D'Anna, Potter
"	4	100	South Dayton	Mitchell
"	7	5	Eden	Andrle
"	11	25	Darien	Mitchell
"	27	20	Eden	Pawlicki, Watson
* Blue-winged Warbler	<u>26F</u>	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	D'Anna, Mance et al
"	30	1	Tifft NP	Watson, Buccieri
* Golden-w. Warbler	<u>25F</u>	1	Amherst SP	Meier
"	<u>27</u>	1	Sheridan	Neveu
* Nashville Warbler	25F	1	Andover	Brooks
"	25F	2	Oak Orch. Marine SP	D'Anna, Potter
"	26	1	Hamburg	Morgante
* Northern Parula	<u>27F</u>	2; 1	Amherst SP	Morgante; Salembier
Yellow Warbler	24	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Pawlicki
"	25	5	Tifft NP	Morgante
"	25	1	Beaver I. SP	Hess
"	25	1	Sheridan	Neveu
* Chestnut-s. Warbler	<u>27F</u>	2	Wilson	Potter
* Magnolia Warbler	<u>27F</u>	1	Forest Lawn Cem, Bflo	Gordon
* Bl.-thr. Blue Warbler	30F	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
* Bl.-thr. Green Warbler	24F	1	Sheridan	Neveu
"	25	1	Tifft NP	Morgante, Sharon
"	25	1	Beaver I. SP	Hess
"	25	2	Williamsville	Salembier
"	25	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
* Blackburnian Warbler	27F	2	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	28	1	Sheridan	Neveu
"	28	2	Chestnut Ridge Pk	Morgante
Pine Warbler	17, 18	1, 1	Sheridan	Neveu
"	21	1	Amherst SP	Salembier, Pawlicki
"	26	7	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
* Prairie Warbler	26F	1	Allegany SP	Coate
Palm Warbler	24	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	25	1	Lake Erie SP	Neveu
* Black-&-White Warb.	25F	1	Sheridan	Neveu
"	26	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	26	2	Wilson	D'Anna et al
* Ovenbird	28F	1	Chestnut Ridge Pk	Morgante
* N. Waterthrush	25F; 26	1; 1	Tifft NP	Morgante; Sharon
"	25F; 27	1; 1	Amherst SP	Salembier; Morgante

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	27	1	Amherst SP	Morgante
"	27	2	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
La. Waterthrush	28	3	Chestnut Ridge Pk	Morgante
* Com. Yellowthroat	28F	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	30	3	Sherman	Neveu
"	30	3	Jamestown Aud.	Neveu
* Hooded Warbler	27F	1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
"	28	2	Chestnut Ridge Pk	Morgante
* Scarlet Tanager	27F	1	Amherst SP	Salembier, Yoerg et al
Amer. Tree Sparrow	22L	2	Cassadaga	Neveu
"	22L	2	Amherst SP	Salembier
* Chipping Sparrow	1F	1	Wilson	Potter
"	6	1	Williamsville	Salembier
* Vesper Sparrow	5F	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Pawlicki
"	6, 10	4, 4	North Harmony	Berry
"	7	3 - 4	Pomfret	Mosher
"	11 - 24	1 - 2	Throughout WNY	4 other reports
* Savannah Sparrow	6F	1	Busti	Berry
"	7	1	Dunkirk Airport	Neveu
Fox Sparrow	17	10	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	1 - 27	1 - 3	Throughout WNY	7 other reports
* Lincoln's Sparrow	25F	1	Pt. Breeze	Pawlicki
"	26	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	27	1	Amherst SP	Morgante
White-thr. Sparrow	26	44	Tifft NP	Watson
White-cr. Sparrow	9F	1	Tifft NP	Salembier, Pawlicki
"	21	1	Eden (f)	Andrie
"	26, 27	6, 3	Niagara Falls (f)	Roberson
Lapland Longspur	2	7	Somerset	D'Anna, Potter
"	2	60	Yates	D'Anna, Potter
* Rose-br. Grosbeak	27F	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	27F	2	Alden	Mitchell
"	28	1 m	Grand I. (f)	Lazarczyk
"	28	2	Chestnut Ridge Pk	Morgante
* Indigo Bunting	27F	1	Niagara Falls (f)	Robersons
<u>Dickcissel</u>	1-18	1	Clarence Center	Abgott
* Bobolink	25F	1	Pomfret	Neveu
"	27	1	Batavia	Mitchell
Eastern Meadowlark	10	11	Tillman Road WMA	Salembier
Rusty Blackbird	2; 4	51; 110	Iroquois NWR	Salembier; Wheeler et al
"	6 - 28	1 - 12	Throughout WNY	7 other reports
* Orchard Oriole	29F, 30	1 m	Silver Creek	Neveu
* Baltimore Oriole	26F	1	Silver Creek mouth	Neveu
"	27	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
"	27	1	Pomfret	Mosher
"	27	1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
Purple Finch	27	20	Wilson (f)	D'Anna, Potter
White-w. Crossbill	3, 22	36, 1	Alfred	Brooks
"	6	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	16	2	Amherst SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
"	18	1	Ward	Brooks
"	21	2	Williamsville	Salembier
Common Redpoll	1 - 21	4 - 1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	10	1	Silver Creek	Neveu

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	22, 23L	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Pine Siskin	1 – 30	10 - 50	Wilson (f)	Potter, D'Anna
"	26	100	Youngstown	Landon, Yonker
"	1 – 30	1 - 45	Throughout BOS	10 other reports

Species, subspecies, and named hybrids previously recorded this year: 156

Species, subspecies, and named hybrids recorded this month: 061

Total for the year 2009: 217

Statisticians' Note I: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision.

Statisticians' Note II: We are asking members of the BOS and any other birders who send in reports to the BOS to advise us as soon as they can of any possible errors in regard to records published in the Prothonotary, particularly in the Noteworthy Records so that we can make any necessary changes as soon as appropriate.

Statisticians' Note III: Hybridization within waterfowl is not a very unusual occurrence, as best evidenced by the regular sightings of Mallard x American Black Duck hybrids in the BOS Study Area. We felt that the adult male wigeon that was seen by several observers and documented by Jim Pawlicki was not consistent with either Eurasian Wigeon or American Wigeon and was best identified as a hybrid Eurasian x American Wigeon. This is the first documented record of a hybrid wigeon in the BOS Study Area; however, hybrids should not be unexpected. Eurasian Wigeon reports are increasing in recent years and hybrids occur with some regularity in North America. Therefore, birders are cautioned to look at any possible Eurasian Wigeon carefully to determine if there are any characteristics of a hybrid.

Statisticians' Note IV: There were many spring migrants that arrived slightly ahead of schedule, especially with the sustained warm weather in late April. Verification reports were received for many arrivals that occurred earlier than the date ranges in the BOS Verification Date Guide; however, there were also several sightings during that time that were not documented via verification report. Given the surge of early migrants, it is likely that most if not all of these unverified sightings were accurate. As such and in recognition that migration phenology for many spring migrants is being affected by changes in climate, these unverified sightings are mentioned here. These are not accepted as part of the ornithological record; however, verification reports could still be submitted. Each spring we lose potential "early" records like these because verification reports are not provided. As the trend of earlier arriving migrants continues, more flexibility in the Verification Date Guide should be considered.

Common Moorhen Apr 2 Tift NP

Swainson's Thrush Apr 25 Tift NP

Blue-winged Warbler Apr 27 Alden

Northern Parula Apr 28 Beaver I. SP

Chestnut-sided Warbler Apr 26 Watts Flats WMA

Hamburg Hawk Watch Summary Spring 2009

Jim Landau, Coordinator

Weather Factors

Committed counters are scheduled at the watch from March 1 through May 15, however that doesn't mean that raptors aren't migrating before or after those dates if conditions allow. Bill Watson took the opportunity to stop and take a look on February 17 and 25 and was rewarded with our first 5 Red-tailed Hawks of the season.

Weather-wise March was noted for the lack of snow and the abundance of sunshine. It started very cold but quickly transitioned to above average warmth, and only a handful of days had a trace of snow on the ground - a welcome change from our expected March experience at the hawk watch. Although Lake Erie started out largely ice covered, increased warmth over the course of the month steadily decreased it, with the western end melting first. By the end of March only a small area of the eastern end of the lake contained ice. These favorable climatic conditions allowed us the full 31 days of coverage and certainly aided in achieving the watch's highest March totals to date.

Both of the season's Black Vultures were logged this month, and there were plenty of Bald Eagles, Sharp-shinned, Cooper's and Red-tailed Hawks sprinkled in among the plentiful Turkey Vultures to keep watchers engaged.

April was another month of relatively quiet and tranquil weather across Western New York. It did feature a brief winter reminder during the first week and a real taste of summer during the final week, but will be remembered for an abundance of dry sunny and seasonably mild weather during the bulk of the month. Lake Erie still had some ice as the month began but it continued to erode steadily and the Buffalo Harbor was ice free by April 13.

Turkey Vultures continued their impressive flight northward and Bald Eagles, Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks, and American Kestrels turned up in robust numbers. They contributed to the highest April totals since 2003 and the third highest April ever for the watch.

May was the third consecutive month of benign, uneventful weather. Overall it averaged out dry and sunny with normal temperatures. There was little weather of note, just an abundance of mild, dry and sunny days and cool nights. May began with a relatively mild and unsettled first

week, then became dry during the second week. Despite the favorable weather the flight seemed to peter out, resulting in the lowest May totals since 2001. Osprey, Sharp-shinned, Cooper's and Broad-winged Hawks were all surprisingly under-represented, and American Kestrels weren't seen at all. Bill Watson once again found time and opportunity to stretch the season. His efforts on May 19 and 20 added another 50 birds to the total as well as tallying the final Bald Eagle.

Data Table

The table presents the past 12 seasons, with this season's count data by month. Bolded cells and numbers indicate high counts for each of the 16 species identified at the watch. The years 1992 and 1993 are included to show high counts for 7 species. Highest March total: 7236 in 2009. Highest April total: 10766 in 1992. Highest May total: 1167 in 2007. Highest season total: 17411 in 2003.

	BV	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	UR	TOTAL
Feb											5							5
Mar	2	6145	3	20	8	85	55		171		691	13	1	24	3	1	14	7236
Apr		6670	84	19	31	298	63		6	1247	447	5	1	49	5	3	41	8969
May		359	3	15	1	27	8			87	69					2	3	574
2009	2	13174	90	54	40	410	126		177	1334	1212	18	2	73	8	6	58	16784
2008		9812	92	24	48	423	116	2	118	2407	1052	16	3	67	10	3	90	14283
2007		9326	110	28	39	410	119	3	234	1575	1015	21	2	51	6	6	65	13010
2006	1	9160	113	43	50	609	121	1	238	2258	1294	40	4	63	6	4	131	14136
2005		7838	109	42	76	525	124	2	299	2503	1368	42	3	95	3	6	106	13141
2004	2	7723	91	39	104	395	85	1	270	1757	1167	95	2	74	4	3	126	11938
2003		8872	151	29	101	889	160	1	216	4998	1779	29	4	94	8	7	73	17411
2002		8505	103	23	65	611	129	2	218	1132	1223	21	1	75	7	2	120	12237
2001		5192	100	25	51	550	99	1	372	2360	981	33	4	76	5	1	120	9970
2000	1	4896	98	17	52	877	62	4	209	3385	1413	40	3	121	3	1	87	11229
1999		2163	26		34	247	27	3	127	2760	472	32	3	22		2	29	5947
1998		2629	68	4	23	628	48	6	87	2369	711	15	1	34		1	48	6672
1993		2478	124	16	102	1113	34	1	796	2594	1912	30	1	76	1		359	9637
1992		2672	144	15	184	1314	55	1	424	5641	1954	136	1	146	2		224	12913

Species abbreviations

BV Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) **TV** Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) **OS** Osprey (*Pandion haliaeetus*)

BE Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) **NH** Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) **SS** Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*) **CH** Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperi*) **NG** Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*)

RS Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) **BW** Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) **RT** Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) **RL** Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*) **GE** Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)

AK American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) **ML** Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) **PG** Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) **UR** Unknown Raptor (*Unknown*)

Species Reports

Vultures continued to dominate the tally sheets of our counters, with a sharp spike in both March and April over last year. It was perhaps inevitable that 2 Black Vultures would turn up among the record 13,174 Turkey Vultures counted this season. There appears to be no reason not to expect continued increases in their numbers in years to come.

Ospreys were down slightly from previous years, but not dramatically so. Eagles provided our other eye-catching species in 2009, with 54 Bald Eagles setting a new high count and 2 Golden Eagles fueling watcher enthusiasm with cameo appearances in both March and April. Northern Harriers continued to migrate past in tepid numbers typical over the past 5 years.

Sharp-shinned Hawks, and to a lesser degree Cooper's Hawks, held their own and both continued a slight trend upward. Northern Goshawk provided a negative surprise this season. While never plentiful at the watch, none were reported for the first time since the mid-1990s.

Three of the four buteo species expected at the watch (Red-shouldered, Broad-winged and Red-tailed Hawks) were up, down and up in numbers this year, respectively. Rough-legged Hawk, while marginally up from last year, continued to trend poorly for at least the past 6 years.

Falcons presented a picture similar to that of the buteos, with numbers slightly up or down over last year but holding steady when considered as trends.

Seventy-eight days were covered at the watch this spring with only 3 scheduled days missed due to weather. Forty-seven non-raptor species provided additional welcome interest for watchers, with Tundra Swan, Great Egret, Sandhill Crane, Short-eared Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, White-crowned Sparrow and Pine Siskin of special note.

Hamburg Hawk Watch is an "all volunteer" spring watch. It is conducted at Lakeside Memorial Park on Route 75 in Hamburg and is about 1 mile from Lake Erie shore. Dedicated coverage runs from March 1 through May 15. All of the data generated is uploaded to HawkCount.org, a database of information maintained by The Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA). HMANA is a membership-based organization committed to the conservation of raptors through the scientific study, enjoyment, and appreciation of raptor migration. The main web page <http://hmana.org/> contains a wealth of additional raptor information and links. Data from Hamburg and most other watches can be accessed directly at <http://hawkcount.org/>

Acknowledgements

Hamburg Hawk Watch would not exist without the help of our volunteer observers. Their perennial dedication to the watch is a reflection not only of their passion for raptors but also their interest in furthering avian studies. The coordinator most gratefully acknowledges the considerable commitment of time and effort of Bruce Chilton, Mike Hamilton, Fran Rew, Bill Watson and Mike Zebehazy, who

remain our "Hawk Watch Heroes." Thanks are also due to Connie Adams, Lewis Crowell, Bob and Donna Deleon, Doug Happ, Sharon Sisti and Paul and Nancy Vigyikan who stepped up to fill in any gaps in coverage. Many others stopped by throughout the spring to witness the magic of migration and their support, knowledge and interest are always a welcome addition. Weather summaries were obtained from the National Weather Service Office in Buffalo.

Anyone with suggestions, questions or comments regarding this year's watch are asked to please contact Jim Landau at 9195 State Road, Colden, NY 14033, by phone (716) 941-3869, or by e-mail: kjlandau@localnet.com.

[Note: The Ripley Hawkwatch Summary for 2009 will be in the next *Prothonotary* issue.]

2009 Great Lakes Raptor Conference

Jim Landau

The Ripley Hawk Watch hosted an interesting and successful meeting for those interested in Raptor Migration along the Great Lakes on May 22, 23, & 24, 2009. Representatives from eleven hawk watches discussed raptor behavior, data collection procedures, and organizational protocols. The conference was held at Bellinger Hall Retreat Center on the beautiful & historic Chautauqua Institute grounds. A Saturday morning field trip to the Roger Tory Peterson Institute (RTPI) of Natural History was very informative for those interested in Peterson's art, his collection of bird skins and the RTPI educational mission. Saturday night's dinner at Noble Winery overlooking the Lake Erie shore followed a wine tasting provided by several local wineries. The Buffalo Ornithological Society's own Fran Rew was recognized for her pioneering work in raptor data collection at the Ripley and Hamburg hawk watches.

Topics addressed at the conference included Raptor Population Index data requirements, the involvement of The Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA) in creating federal standards for pre & post construction studies and monitoring of wind power projects, and the potential value of a Great Lakes Hawk Watch Regional Network. On the lighter side, several people discussed the relative merits of features that would comprise the "perfect hawk watch chair".

Report of the 2009 Annual B.O.S. April Bird Count

Date: April 19, 2009

Weather: Terry Yonker, Compiler: Mike Hamilton

Weather Synopsis

Weather on the count day was significantly cooler than the previous day as a backdoor cold front passed through the area before midnight on Saturday. Winds that blew strongly from the southwest on Saturday, switched to moderate winds from the northeast on Sunday. Cloudy skies before dawn became mostly cloudy skies in the morning and then overcast again by late afternoon. Morning temperatures rose from the mid forties to the mid fifties by noon and to the mid forties again by midnight Sunday.

Greater Buffalo International Airport

Sunrise: 6:27 AM EDT

Sunset: 8:02 PM EDT

TIME	WEATHER	TEMP	DEW PT	PRESSURE	DIR/WIND	REMARKS
12:00 am	Mostly Cloudy	46°F	41°F	1017.0mb	E 18mph	
3:00 am	Cloudy	44	39	1017.7	NE 13	
6:00 am	Mostly Cloudy	43	36	1018.5	NE 10	
9:00 am	Mostly Cloudy	44	36	1010.1	NE 13	
12:00 pm	Mostly Cloudy	53	30	1018.8	E 17	
3:00 pm	Mostly Cloudy	56	27	1017.7	E 18 G 26	Wind shift
6:00 pm	Mostly Cloudy	51	22	1016.4	NE 21 G 26	
9:00 pm	Cloudy	48	20	1015.7	E 18	
12:00 am	Cloudy	47	21	1014.3	E 18	

Compilation: The following is a list of species recorded on the count together with the number of individuals tabulated. Bold face names indicate species for which acceptable written verification forms were received. F represents first and L last dates for the spring migration, * first date for the year. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the section numbers are given in parentheses.

G e e s e - H e r o n s				
Canada Goose	10674		Bufflehead	2370
Mute Swan	12	(2,3,5)	Common Goldeneye	19
Tundra Swan	106		Hooded Merganser	121
Wood Duck	383		Common Merganser	318
Gadwall	53		Red-breasted Merganser	6411
Eurasian Wigeon	1	(10)	Ruddy Duck	155
American Wigeon	553		unspecified ducks	12 (20,22)
American Black Duck	16		Ring-necked Pheasant	24
Mallard	1022		Ruffed Grouse	23
Blue-winged Teal	68		Wild Turkey	238
Northern Shoveler	33		Red-throated Loon	46 (3,5,13)
Northern Pintail	549		Common Loon	114
Green-winged Teal	181		Pied-billed Grebe	50
Canvasback	1	(7)	Horned Grebe	76
Redhead	12	(7,8,10)	Red-necked Grebe	23 (4,5,17)
Ring-necked Duck	527		Double-crested Cormorant	3120
Greater Scaup	468		American Bittern	2 (19)
Lesser Scaup	444		Great Blue Heron	399
unspecified scaup	124		Great Egret	57
Surf Scoter	4	(20,24)	Green Heron	2 (24,28)
White-winged Scoter	12	(3,4,5)	Black-crowned Night-Heron	301
Long-tailed Duck	1124			
V u l t u r e s - C r a n e s				
Turkey Vulture	1024		Bald Eagle	36
Osprey	41		unspecified eagle	1 (14)

Northern Harrier		60		unspecified buteos	2	(10,14)
Sharp-shinned Hawk		80		American Kestrel	172	
Cooper's Hawk		39		Merlin	4	(3,18,22)
Northern Goshawk		2	(8,10)	Peregrine Falcon	1	(9)
unspecified accipiters		3	(2,7,8)	unspecified falcon	1	(3)
Red-shouldered Hawk		18		unspecified hawks	2	(20)
* Broad-winged Hawk	F	60		Virginia Rail	4	(3,12,19)
Red-tailed Hawk		363		American Coot	126	
Rough-legged Hawk		3	(2,4,15)	Sandhill Crane	2	(3,14)

Plovers – Terns

Killdeer		344		Ring-billed Gull	17236	
Greater Yellowlegs		44		Herring Gull	3308	
Lesser Yellowlegs		8		Iceland Gull	6	(2,3)
* Spotted Sandpiper	F	5	(10,13,24)	Lesser Black-backed Gull	4	(3,4,6)
* Upland Sandpiper	F	3	(7,10,12)	Glaucous Gull	2	(2)
Pectoral Sandpiper		1	(16)	Great Black-backed Gull	103	
Wilson's Snipe		75		unspecified gulls	78	
American Woodcock		28		Caspian Tern	194	
Little Gull		1	(3)	Common Tern	145	
Bonaparte's Gull		13279				

Pigeons - Swallows

Rock Pigeon		879		Pileated Woodpecker	57	
Mourning Dove		1378		Eastern Phoebe	300	
Eastern Screech-Owl		9		* Eastern Kingbird	F	2 (7)
Great Horned Owl		3	(19,22)	* Blue-headed Vireo	F	14
Barred Owl		6	(4,15,28)	Blue Jay		804
Short-eared Owl		7		American Crow		2161
Northern Saw-whet Owl		7	(2,8)	Common Raven		19
Belted Kingfisher		115		Horned Lark		104
Red-headed Woodpecker		1	(20)	Purple Martin		69
Red-bellied Woodpecker		234		Tree Swallow		1512
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		283		N. Rough-winged Swallow		175
Downy Woodpecker		414		Bank Swallow		8
Hairy Woodpecker		110		* Cliff Swallow	F	2 (8,24)
Northern Flicker		724		Barn Swallow		250

Tits - Waxwings

Black-capped Chickadee		1324		Eastern Bluebird	244	
Tufted Titmouse		212		Hermit Thrush	48	
Red-breasted Nuthatch		55		American Robin	7086	
White-breasted Nuthatch		218		unspecified thrush	1	(22)
Brown Creeper		113		Gray Catbird	6	
Carolina Wren		19		Northern Mockingbird	19	
* House Wren	F	2	(15,20)	* Brown Thrasher	F	21
Winter Wren		42		European Starling		12135
Golden-crowned Kinglet		290		American Pipit		1 (11)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		160		Cedar Waxwing		176

Warblers – House Sparrows

* Yellow Warbler	F	2	(7)	Eastern Towhee	56	
Yellow-rumped Warbler		44		American Tree Sparrow	168	
Pine Warbler		18		Chipping Sparrow	375	
* Palm Warbler	F	9	(1,20)	Field Sparrow	122	
* Louisiana Waterthrush	F	12		Vesper Sparrow	4	(5,13,23)

Savannah Sparrow	239	Rusty Blackbird	409
Fox Sparrow	56	Common Grackle	4398
Song Sparrow	1902	Brown-headed Cowbird	1277
Swamp Sparrow	193	Purple Finch	327
White-throated Sparrow	159	House Finch	541
White-crowned Sparrow	36	White-winged Crossbill	9 (3,20,28)
Dark-eyed Junco	1927	Common Redpoll	58 (4,20,28)
unspecified sparrows	4 (13)	Pine Siskin	1409
Northern Cardinal	892	American Goldfinch	1789
Dickcissel	1 (10)	House Sparrow	1605
Red-winged Blackbird	6627	unspecified birds	12 (1,13,14)
Eastern Meadowlark	217		

SUMMARY INFORMATION: Total species observed: 154
Total individual birds observed: 123,872

COMPARATIVE INFORMATION: Associated charts, available from Michael Hamilton, compare this year's records with those for 2000-2009 and those for 1935-2009. A chart listing totals for each species per section for 2008 is also available. In addition the following notes are added:

INDIVIDUAL SPECIES SINCE 1935:

Highest count since 1935 (x the average of the previous 73 years): Great Egret, 57 (19 x ave.); Bald Eagle, 36 (9 x ave.); Upland Sandpiper, 3 (10 x ave.); Iceland Gull, 6, (6 x ave.); Lesser Black-backed Gull, 4 (5.2 x ave.); Caspian Tern, 194 (17.6 x ave.); Red-bellied Woodpecker, 234 (7.8 x ave.); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 283 (9.4 x ave.); Pileated Woodpecker, 57 (4.4 x ave.); Blue-headed Vireo, 14 (46.6 x ave.); Barn Swallow, 250 (10.9 x ave.); House Wren, 2 (20 x ave.); Winter Wren, 42 (3.5 x ave.); Pine Warbler, 18 (18 x ave.); Palm Warbler, 9 (45 x ave.); Louisiana Waterthrush, 12 (40 x ave.).

Lowest count since 1935 past decade (average number seen during the previous 73 years): None.

Rare count sightings: Yellow Warbler, 2 (1st count record); Dickcissel, 1 (1st count record); Eastern Kingbird, 2 (2nd count record, 1st was 1 in 1999); House Wren, 2 (3rd count record; previous records were 1 each in 2002 & 2003).

INDIVIDUAL SPECIES SINCE 2000

Highest count in past decade (x the average of the previous 10 years): Tundra Swan, 106 (3.4 x ave.); Red-throated Loom, 46 (4.2 x ave.); American Bittern, 2 (2 x ave.); Great Egret, 57 (3.4 x ave.); Black-crowned Night-Heron, 301 (1.7 x ave.); Bald Eagle, 36 (2.1 x ave.); Northern Goshawk, 2 (2 x ave.); Upland Sandpiper, 3 (3 x ave.); Iceland Gull, 6 (2 x ave.); Lesser Black-backed Gull, 4 (2 x ave.); Caspian Tern, 194 (3.1 x ave.); Common Tern, 145 (3.3 x ave.); Short-eared Owl, 7 (3.5 x ave.); Northern Saw-whet Owl, (7 x ave.); Red-bellied Woodpecker, 234 (1.6 x ave.); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 283 (2.4 x ave.); Pileated Woodpecker, 57 (1.6 x ave.); Blue-headed Vireo, 14 (7 x ave.); Bank Swallow, 8 (8 x ave.); Bark Swallow, 250 (3.4 x ave.); House Wren, 2 (5 x ave.); Winter Wren, 42 (1.5 x ave.); Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 160 (2.7 x ave.); (Hermit Thrush, 48 (1.8 x ave.); Pine Warbler, 18 (3.6 x ave.); Palm Warbler, 9 (9 x ave.); Louisiana Waterthrush, 12 (6 x ave.); Field Sparrow, 122 (1.7 x ave.); White-winged Crossbill, 9 (9 x ave.); Pine Siskin, 1409 (9.1 x ave.).

Lowest count in past decade (average number seen during the previous 10 years): Canada Goose, 10,674 (21,442); American Black Duck, 16 (47); Mallard, 1022 (1269); Northern Shoveler, 33 (161); Canvasback, 1 (102); Ring-necked Duck, 527 (929); White-winged Scoter, 12 (366); Common Goldeneye, 19 (335); Little Gull, 1 (8); Rock Pigeon, 879 (1284); Great Horned Owl, 3 (14); American Crow, 2161 (2813); American Pipit, 1 (144).

Rare count sightings: First decade records: Eurasian Wigeon, 1; Eastern Kingbird, 2; Yellow Warbler, 2; Dickcissel, 1; White-winged Crossbill, 9; Second decade records: none; Third decade records: Upland Sandpiper, 3 (previous records were 2 each in 2004 and 2008); House Wren, 2 (previous records were 1 each in 2002 & 2003).

SIGNIFICANT POPULATION INCREASES AND DECREASES:

This report continues a change instituted in the April 2008 count report for the analysis of population change. Prior to 1966 the number of observers on these counts was fairly stable at around 150. In 1966 the Lake Erie Bird Club of Dunkirk, the Cattaraugus Bird Club, the Allegany Bird Club and the Jamestown Audubon Society began participating in the counts and the number of observers increased to approximately 250 where it has remained ever since. Given this stable number of observers it may be more revealing to compare population changes from the decade starting in 1966 to the current decade, rather than the entire count period to the current decade, as I have done in the past. And to make this comparison more scientifically meaningful t-testing has been used to compare the birds observed in the two ten year periods in order to determine if there has been a statistically significant change in the population of each recorded species. Those species which are statistically significantly different at the 95% confidence level are listed below.

INCREASES: *The numbers shown indicate the increase multiple between the first decade (1966-1975) and the last (2000-2009) except when no sightings occurred in the first decade, in which case the numbers in parenthesis indicate the total number observed in each of the two decades:*

Mute Swan (0/91), Wood Duck, 4x; Gadwall, 4.3x; Northern Shoveler, 6.8x; Ruddy Duck, 19.1x; Wild Turkey, 11.2x; Red-throated Loon, 54x; Common Loon, 7.3x; Double-crested Cormorant, 8945X; Great Blue Heron, 3.9x; Great Egret, 29x; Green Heron (0/13); Black-crowned Night-Heron, 14x; Turkey Vulture, 21.2x; Osprey, 5.7x; Bald Eagle, 33.4x; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 5.8x; Merlin (0/26); Peregrine Falcon (0/20); Virginia Rail, 27x; Sandhill Crane, 14x; Little Gull, 11.6x; Bonaparte's Gull, 6.5x; Ring-billed Gull, 6x; Iceland Gull, 9.7x; Lesser Black-backed Gull (0/22); Great Black-backed Gull, 16.7x; Caspian Tern, 632x; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 15x; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 7.1x; Common Raven (0/145); Tree Swallow, 5.5x; Northern Rough-winged Swallow, 102.7x; Tufted Titmouse, 8.8x; Carolina Wren, 5.9x; Hermit Thrush, 6.5x; Northern Mockingbird, 7.2x; Yellow-rumped Warbler, 8.9x; Pine Warbler, 49x; Chipping Sparrow, 4.5x; House Finch (0/6075).

DECREASES: None

OBSERVERS (Section compilers are printed in **bold face**.):

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Section 2: Brian Ahara, **John Black**, Kayo Roy, Karen Schneider, Maggie Smiley, John Stevens
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July – August++ Calendar

BOS website

<http://www.bosbirding.org/>



Buffalo-Niagara Region
Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

- July 26: Sunday. Canadian shoreline of Lake Erie (including Rock Point PP) for shorebirds.** Leader: Douglas Happ (649-1297). Meet at 7:00 AM at Vermont and Busti near the Peace Bridge. We will car pool from there. Bring Canadian currency for Rock Point PP, passport, or enhanced drivers license.
- Aug. 16: Sunday. Lake Erie Shorebird Count.** Coordinator: Lynne Landon (745-9129) or llandon@daemen.edu. BOS members are encouraged to participate.
- Aug. 30: Sunday. Canadian shoreline of Lake Erie (including Rock Point PP) for shorebirds.** Leader: Douglas Happ (649-1297). Meet at 7:00 AM at Vermont and Busti near the Peace Bridge. We will car pool from there. Bring Canadian currency for Rock Point PP, passport, or enhanced drivers license.
- Sept. 9: BOS Meeting. Tifft Nature Preserve.** Due to the Body Worlds exhibit at the Buffalo Museum of Science, the September 9 meeting will be held at Tifft Nature Preserve.
- Oct. 14: BOS Anniversary Dinner** will be held at Salvatore's Italian Garden. More details to follow.

The PROTHONOTARY



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THE MONTH: May

Gerry Rising

Steve McLaughlin of the Buffalo Weather Forecast Office summarized this fourth consecutive month of tranquil weather as "little weather of note, just an abundance of mild, dry and sunny days and cool nights."

Temperature averaged out at 57.2°F, just 0.2° above normal, but some cold nights balanced warm days: lows in the 30s at the airport on May 11, 18 and 19, brought frost to inland areas. In fact, only eight days had minimum temperatures above 50°. My sense is that those low temperatures contributed to the flattening of a migration that had such a good start in April.

It certainly wasn't rainfall. Total for the month, 1.9 inches, was 1.5 inches (45%) below normal. On eight days more than a tenth of an inch fell, but only four of those days were early in the month: May 1, 6, 7 and 9. The rest were late: May 27-30, after the Memorial Day weekend.

May is a month of high species counts for two reasons: there are always a few winter species that remain and, of course, migrants and summer residents are passing through or coming to stay.

Consider first the stragglers from cooler weather. This month we had these verified late records (May dates accompanied by Date Guide late dates in parentheses): Harlequin Duck, 7 (April 18); Surf Scoter, 25 (May 20); Merlin, 24, 27 (May 20); Little Gull, 21, 29 (May 9);

Black-headed Gull, 29 (April 7); Glaucous Gull, 27, 29 (May 23); Iceland Gull, 27, 29 (May 24); Tree Sparrow, 17 (May 12). Also hanging around through the month from the winter incursions were a few White-winged

Crossbills and many Pine Siskins (188 recorded on the May 17 Count).

Then there are the migrants. All the usual suspects appeared, but to me at least the numbers reported are frightening. Take a look at the Noteworthy Records listing for passerines and you will find almost exclusively ones. And consider the warblers appearing on the May Count. A total of 4165 individual warblers were recorded. That doesn't look so bad, especially in comparison with earlier decade averages: 90s: 4195; 80s: 4182; 70s: 4399. But consider those numbers in two different ways. Over half of them, 2232, were yellows and yellowthroats. The other 1933 were divided among 33 species and 28 sections. That means that the average total for each of those species over the entire region was 59 (about two per section) and the average number counted in each section was 70, not many warblers at the height of migration.

My own observations were equally discouraging. After that exciting start to the migration in late April local wood-



Summer Tanager photographed by Greg Coniglio at Golden Hill State Park in Somerset, NY. The bird was found earlier in the day by Jim Pawlicki on the May 17th Count.

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lots cleared out, leaving few birds. It was disheartening to walk though Amherst State Park in mid-May to find only small numbers of three or four warbler species. Let's hope they just flew past us without stopping.

Nine Blue-winged Teal were recorded on the May Count. Consider average earlier May Count decade averages for this species: 1930s, 39; 1940s, 54; 1950s 45; 1960s, 83; 1970s, 96; 1980s, 61; 1990s, 47. Another formerly common summer resident is essentially gone from our avifauna with birds like moorhens following closely.

The take-over of the Blue-winged Warbler/Golden-winged Warbler complex by blue-wings proceeds apace with 87 blue-wings, one Brewster's hybrid and no golden-wings on the May Count. Two golden-wings, one Brewster's

and one Lawrence's were also reported during the month.

I conclude with more pleasant news. As usual, a number of other interesting birds were recorded: Eurasian Wigeon; Snowy and Cattle Egrets and Tricolored Heron; some Sandhill Cranes; a few Nighthawks; several White-eyed Vireos; a Summer Tanager; a Clay-colored Sparrow; and an increasing number of Orchard Orioles.



Harlequin Duck photographed (above and below) by Jim Pawlicki on the Niagara River at Niagara Falls, NY on May 7, 2009.



RIPLEY HAWK WATCH: SPRING 2009

Gil Randell

The Ripley Hawk Watch (RHW) is a spring hawk watch located on the south shore of Lake Erie, about 60 miles southwest of Buffalo NY. The RHW is an affiliate of the Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA) and, along with hundreds of other raptor observatories in North America, the RHW provides HMANA with field data used for understanding continent-wide population trends among raptors.

Daily and hourly weather conditions dictate which of the watch sites, located between the lakeshore and the top of the escarpment, are manned. Within this three-mile range, the elevation rises from 630 to 1,454 feet above mean sea level and there can be considerable variation in weather, particularly with regard to fog and wind. Northerly winds tend to encourage migrants to ride the wind deflected by the face of the escarpment, while southerly winds force the birds north, closer to the Lake Erie shore. Predominantly westerly or easterly winds allow the birds to spread out between the lake and the escarpment.

Beginning in 2008, weather observations were supported by the use of a Kestrel 4500 Pocket Weather Tracker. This hand-held device replaced a large and cumbersome Davis Instrument Vantage Pro Wireless Weather Station, which had been in use since 2004.

The RHW was manned by volunteers for over 307 hours in 2009. All counters and observers at the RHW are volunteers, dedicated hawk watchers who generously volunteer their time and fiscal support for the RHW's many amenities (two portable toilets). The principal counters, observers and volunteers included Gil Randell, Len DeFrancisco, Mel Freeborough, Terry Mahoney, Jann Randell, Mike Ceci, Bill Dietz, Tom Simmons, Jill and Berk Adams, Bill and Eileen Jowett and Tom Wasilewski.

The 2009 season started March 13th after a very severe winter that included nearly record snowfalls in the region and extreme cold extending over many days, causing adjacent Lake Erie to freeze more deeply than in most years. March, however, was relatively mild with only two days (the 29th and 30th) closed because of bad weather. The heavy Lake Erie ice cover disappeared entirely from its south shore near the hawk watch before the end of March. Usually the ice lingers well into April.

April saw a return of winter with the watch closed four days because of bad weather, three because of heavy snow. The season ended May 15th with one day in May not manned because of heavy rain and thunderstorms. Altogether weather closed the watch seven days in 2009.

For the 2009 season, The RHW had a strong count totaling 23,078 raptors and vultures. Following last year's record-setting number of Turkey Vultures, this year's 12,175 birds set another annual record, 31 more than in 2008. 2009 was also a strong eagle year with record numbers documented.

After last year's strong Osprey numbers (203), 2009 was a disappointing return to a fairly low number of migrating Ospreys (114), a 44% decrease from 2008's count.

The 126 migrating bald eagles surpassed the previous record set in 2006 by twelve birds. May 13th saw the second ever highest daily count of migrating eagles, 15 birds, six of which were observed in one hour. Coupled with seven sightings of local eagles that day, the May 13th eagle count totaled 23.

Local bald eagle sightings have been increasing yearly. 2009 saw a record 121 local bald eagle sightings, yielding a total of 247 eagle sightings (local and migrant) for the year. On only five of the 57 days when the watch was open did we fail to see an eagle.

After two years of increases, this year's low number of Northern Harrier sightings (128) represents a 51% decrease from 2008 numbers (259).

The Sharp-shinned Hawk count (1,169) represents a 16% decrease from 2008 numbers (1,399). Sharp-shinned numbers for 2009 continue a pattern of decreasing numbers at the site, with 2009 numbers at 33% below 2003 totals (1,735). Cooper's Hawk numbers (86), consistent with 2008 numbers (90), are down 21% from 2006 numbers (109).

Red-shouldered Hawks (204) increased 8% over 2007 (189), the third consecutive annual increase. The big Red-shouldered Hawk day was March 17th when the RHW counted 68 birds of this species.

The 2009 Broad-winged Hawk numbers (7,705) represent a 17% increase over 2008 totals (6,592). The big day for Broad-winged Hawks in 2009 was April 24th when 6,360 birds were documented, the biggest single-day count ever at the site. The previous record day's count of 6,174 broadwings occurred on May 1st, 1998. This year 83% of the year's total number of broadwings came through on the one big day with several kettles including more than 500 birds. The big day in 2008 was April 19th when 2,650 birds were counted; the big day in 2007 was April 23rd when 4,322 broadwings were recorded.

Besides the record number of broadwings for one day, April 24th saw a good flight of other raptors, including 17 Ospreys, 7 Bald Eagles, 12 Northern Harriers, 254 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 40 Red-tailed Hawks, 4 Rough-legged Hawks, 51 Kestrels, a Merlin and a Peregrine Falcon: in all, 7,128 raptors and vultures. Southerly winds forced the migrants to the lake shore. For the first four hours, broadwings came through low and fast in ones, twos and threes. When the wind shifted to southwest in the fifth hour, the broadwings went high and began to kettle. Quite a remarkable day!

The Red-tailed Hawk count (1,049) was a 12% decrease from 2008 totals (1,190). The Rough-legged count of 13 was consistent with last year's count of 15 but down considerably from 2004 numbers (41). This year's very modest numbers of Golden Eagles, Merlins, Northern Goshawks

and Peregrine Falcons were consistent with the counts of recent years.

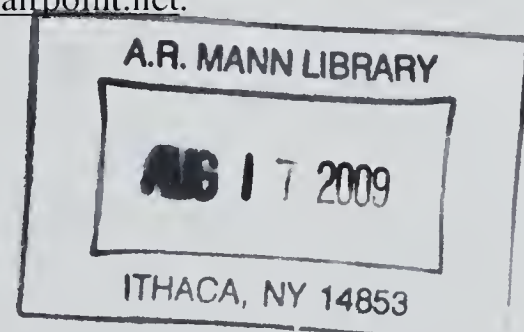
American Kestrel observations numbered 237 this year, only one less than last year's count, which was a nice increase over the disappointing 2007 count (179). But this year's count remains 33% below 2003 numbers (359).

RIPLEY HAWK WATCH RAPTOR COUNT 2008

Species	March	April	May	Total
Black Vulture	1	0	0	1
Turkey Vulture	6,251	5,050	874	12,175
Osprey	1	83	30	114
Bald Eagle	32	64	30	126
Northern Harrier	25	89	14	128
Sharp-shinned Hawk	118	873	178	1,169
Cooper's Hawk	28	47	11	86
Northern Goshawk	1	0	0	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	192	10	2	204
Broad-winged Hawk	0	7,542	163	7,705
Red-tailed Hawk	546	395	108	1,049
Rough-legged Hawk	4	9	0	13
Golden Eagle	1	0	0	1
American Kestrel	53	179	5	237
Merlin	0	8	0	8
Peregrine Falcon	0	4	3	7
Unknown	14	39	1	54
Total	7,267	14,392	1,419	23,078
Hours	92.25	146.25	69	307.5

Hawk watches can be interesting observation sites for non-raptor species. The Ripley Hawk Watch in 2009 recorded a number of notable non-raptor sightings, including 19 Sandhill Cranes seen over ten different days between March 11th and 21st, almost 900 Tundra Swans on eight different days between March 13th and 25th (350 on March 13th), a Raven (possibly a locally nesting bird), four Great Egrets on three separate days and an Orchard Oriole.

Hourly details of the watch and further information about the site and the raptors and other birds observed are available on HMANA's web site (www.HawkCount.org). Visitors to the watch are welcome and questions about the RHW should be directed to Gil Randell (716) 753-2333; janngil@fairpoint.net.



NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Eighth Edition - Revised 2007) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration.

(f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicates nest(s). (yg) Indicates young.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Mute Swan	2	1	Iroquois NWR	Hess
Tundra Swan	22L	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
Eurasian Wigeon	2; 3L	1 ad m	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna; Watson, Pawlicki
American Wigeon	15	1	Conewango Swamp WMA	Baird
Am. Black Duck	23	1	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
Northern Pintail	2	189	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna, Potter; Hess
Green-winged Teal	3	58	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Redhead	7	2	Niagara Falls	Pawlicki, Watson
Ring-necked Duck	6; 14	3; 3	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell; Watson
Greater Scaup	7	12	Niagara Falls	Watson, Pawlicki
"	24L	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	D'Anna
Lesser Scaup	1; 3	4; 3	Tifft NP	Salembier; Morgante
"	3	45	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Pawlicki
* Harlequin Duck	<u>7</u>	1	Niagara Falls	Pawlicki, Watson
Surf Scoter	4; <u>25L</u>	2; 1	Wilson	D'Anna
White-winged Scoter	31	2	Wilson	D'Anna
Long-tailed Duck	29L	5	Olcott	Watson, Pawlicki
Bufflehead	14	4	Batavia WWTP	Pawlicki, Watson
"	15	1 m	Allegany SP	Baird
Common Goldeneye	3; 9	1	Tifft NP	Morgante; Watson (BOS)
Common Merganser	12	28	Sheridan	Neveu
"	31	1	Kiantone	Berry
Ruddy Duck	3, 14	60, 16	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	13	4	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell
Red-throated Loon	3	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
"	25	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Common Loon	23	1	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
"	29	1	Olcott Harbor	Pawlicki
"	31	1	Wilson	D'Anna
D.-crested Cormorant	15	1	Alma	Lazarczyk, Rosche
American Bittern	3; 25	1; 1	Tonawanda WMA	Watson; Yoerg
"	3	1	Darien	Mitchell
"	3	1	Tifft NP	Morgante
* Least Bittern	3F; 9	1; 1	Tifft NP	Morgante; Yoerg et al
"	23; 30	1; 1	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna et al; Gordon
Great Egret	12; 22	106; 88	Motor I.	Watson
"	15	2	Westfield	D'Anna, Zebehazy, Happ
"	15	1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki
* Snowy Egret	<u>9 - 15</u>	1	Dunkirk	Neveu et al

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
* Tricolored Heron	24	1	Tifft NP	Erick et al
* Cattle Egret	3	1	Pomfret	Neveu, Mosher
Black-cr. Night-Heron	7	77 + 66 n	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
"	30	1	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna
Osprey	7	1 ad + n	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson, Pawlicki
"	28	1 ad + n	Tonawanda	Watson
Bald Eagle	3	2 ad + n	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	5	1 ad + n	Elko	Baird
"	5	2 ad + n	South Valley	Baird
"	11	5	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
"	19	3 juv	Sheridan	Neveu
"	30	8	Iroquois NWR & vicin.	Gordon, Rothman
Cooper's Hawk	6	2 ad + n	Times Beach NP	Watson
"	6	2 ad + n	Tifft NP	Watson
Merlin	<u>24</u>	1	Salamanca	Baird
"	<u>27L</u>	1	Olcott	Pawlicki
Peregrine Falcon	6	1	Alden	Mitchell
"	15	1	Delaware Park, Bflo.	Pawlicki
"	24	1	Buffalo	Yoerg
"	28	1	Motor I.	Watson
"	30	1	North Grand I. bridge	Yoerg
Virginia Rail	25	2	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg
Sora	5	1	Oakfield	Beattie
"	15	2	Cuba	Lazarczyk, Rosche
"	25	3	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg
American Coot	3	77	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Sandhill Crane	9	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Andrle, Landau, Rew
"	10	2	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
"	13	1	Lake Erie SP	Neveu
* Semipalmated Plover	2F	3	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna, Potter
"	13	10	Sherman	Neveu
"	14	32	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Greater Yellowlegs	7	10	Darien	Mitchell
"	14	1	Batavia WWTP	Pawlicki, Watson
Lesser Yellowlegs	3	28	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	3	151	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Solitary Sandpiper	2	12	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki
"	13	2	Sherman	Neveu
"	15	3	Willing	Lazarczyk, Rosche
* Whimbrel	22F	5	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
* Ruddy Turnstone	22F	8	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
"	24; 28	2; 9	Rock Point PP (Ont)	D'Anna; Yoerg
"	24	1	Morgan's Point (Ont)	D'Anna
"	27	1	Wilson Harbor	Pawlicki
* Semipalm. Sandpiper	13F; 14	5; 2	Tonawanda WMA	Mitchell; Watson
"	19	1	Yates	D'Anna
"	28	40	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg
"	29	20	Olcott Harbor	Watson, Pawlicki
Least Sandpiper	2	2	Newstead	Hess
"	2; 14	12; 105	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna, Potter; Watson
"	19	158	Yates	D'Anna, Potter
"	22	7	Sherman	Neveu
* White-r. Sandpiper	23F; 30	1; 1	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna; D'Anna, Newton
Pectoral Sandpiper	23L	1	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki et al

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
* Dunlin	3F	10	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	13	1	Sherman	Neveu
"	22	121	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
"	25	40	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg
* Short-b. Dowitcher	14	2	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki, Watson
"	15	3	Conewango Swamp WMA	Baird
"	23L	1	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna, Potter
Dowitcher species	<u>3F</u>	3	Tonawanda WMA	Watson, Pawlicki
Little Gull	<u>21</u>	2	Lewiston	Pawlicki
"	<u>29</u>	2	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki, Watson
Black-headed Gull	<u>29</u>	1	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki, Watson
Bonaparte's Gull	21	300	Lewiston	Pawlicki
"	29; 30	250; 40	Fort Niagara SP	Watson, Pawlicki; Yoerg
Iceland Gull	<u>27-29L</u>	1	Wilson	Pawlicki, Watson
Lesser Black-b. Gull	21L	1	Goat I.	Pawlicki
Glaucous Gull	<u>27-29L</u>	1	Wilson	Pawlicki, Watson
Great Black-b. Gull	30	1	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
Caspian Tern	2	67	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	16	175	Wilson Harbor	Pawlicki, D'Anna
Common Tern	4	84	Wilson	D'Anna
"	14	19	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki, Watson
"	21	180	Lewiston	Pawlicki
"	29	150	Fort Niagara SP	Watson, Pawlicki
* Black Tern	2F; 3; 13	8; 11; 30	Iroquois NWR	Hess; Watson; Mitchell
"	29	1	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki, Watson
"	30	1	North Harmony	Berry, Sundell
* Black-billed Cuckoo	15F	2	Willing	Lazarczyk, Rosche
"	15F	3	Alma	Lazarczyk, Rosche
"	16	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
* Yellow-billed Cuckoo	16F	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	18	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Nor. Saw-whet Owl	23	1	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna, Potter
* Common Nighthawk	16F	1	Clarence	Morgante
"	18	1	Orchard Park	Morgante
"	22	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	22	1	Great Valley	Baird
"	29	1	Buffalo	Yoerg
Whip-poor-will	28	4	Wainfleet Bog (Ont)	Yoerg
* Ruby-t. Hummingbird	1F	1	Wilson	Potter
"	3	1	Eden (f)	Andrle
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	14	1	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki, Watson
Red-headed Wdpr	2, 13	1, 1	Oakfield	Beattie, Dart
"	3	2	Fort Niagara SP	Landon
"	4	1	Wainfleet (Ont)	B&J Farnan
"	6	2	Lakeside Beach SP	Lazarczyk, Rising
"	16, 18	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	22	4	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
"	27	1	Olcott	Pawlicki
* Eastern Wood-Pewee	13F	1	Lake Erie SP	Neveu
"	15	1	Pomfret	Neveu
Yellow-b. Flycatcher	21	1	Amherst SP	Yoerg
"	24; 28	1; 1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	D'Anna; Yoerg
"	25	1	Perrysburg	Neveu
"	31	1	Pomfret	Neveu
* Acadian Flycatcher	15F; 24	1; 2	Pomfret	Neveu

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	27	1	Newfane	Pawlicki
"	28	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	30	1	Iroquois NWR	Gordon, Rothman
Alder Flycatcher	22	1	French Creek	D'Anna
"	22	4	Sherman	Neveu
* Willow Flycatcher	16F	1	Sheridan	Neveu
"	19	1	Batavia	Lazarczyk et al
Eastern Kingbird	2	1	Amherst SP	Yoerg
White-eyed Vireo	3	1	Wilson	D'Anna et al
"	3	1	Tifft NP	Morgante
"	21	1	Cherry Creek	Lazarczyk
Yellow-thr. Vireo	4	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	4	1	Arkwright	Neveu
* Philadelphia Vireo	9F; 14	1; 1	Tifft NP	Yoerg; Sharon
"	16	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	18	3	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	24	1	Iroquois NWR	Lazarczyk, Rosche
"	27	1	Newfane	Pawlicki
* Red-eyed Vireo	1F	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	6	1	Wilson	Potter
Common Raven	3	2 - 3	Bush Hill SF	Yoerg, Hendersons
"	15	1	Conewango Swamp WMA	Baird
"	24	2	Carroll	Berry
"	25	1	Colden	J Landau
Cliff Swallow	5	10 + 25 n	Tonawanda I.	Watson
"	15	20	Cuba	Lazarczyk, Rosche
"	22	12 + 3 n	Ellery	Neveu
"	22	2 + 1 n	North Harmony	Neveu
Carolina Wren	1 - 7	2 - 3	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	6	1	Times Beach NP	Watson
"	9	1	Jamestown	Berry
"	13	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	27	2	Mouth of Silver Creek	Neveu
Winter Wren	1 - 4	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	2	1	Carroll	Berry
"	4; 6	2; 2	Arkwright	Neveu
"	23	2	Pt. Abino (Ont)	Jacklin
"	31	1	Ward	Brooks
Marsh Wren	3F; 6	3; 1	Tifft NP	Morgante; Watson
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	18L	2	Lake Erie SP	Neveu
Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	1	10	Tifft NP	Salembier
* Veery	2F	1	Carroll	Berry
"	4	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	8	36	Tonawanda (night)	Hess
* Gray-cheeked Thrush	15F	1	Tonawanda	Hess
"	16	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Hess
"	29	1	Porter	Watson
"	29; 30	1; 1	Four Mile Creek SP	Pawlicki, Watson; Yoerg
Swainson's Thrush	3	1	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna, Gordon et al
"	8	22	Tonawanda (night)	Hess
"	9 - 28	7 - 12	Tonawanda (night)	Hess
"	27	10	Olcott	Pawlicki
"	30	1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	30	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Northern Mockingbird	11	1	Pomfret	Lazarczyk
"	22	1	Darien	Mitchell
American Pipit	13	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Pawlicki
Golden-wing. Warbler	6	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	6	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter
* Brewster's Warbler	4F	1	Alexander	Dart
* <u>Lawrence's Warbler</u>	15	1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki
* Tennessee Warbler	8F	2	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	8F	1	Four Mile Creek SP	Potter, D'Anna
"	8F	1	Williamsville	Salembier
* Orange-cr. Warbler	4F	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Nashville Warbler	10, 25	1, 3	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
"	24	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	31	1	Arkwright	Neveu
Northern Parula	2	1	Pt. Gratiot	Wheeler
"	9; 12	2; 1	Tifft NP	Watson et al; Mitchell
"	30	3	Allegany SP	Baird
"	31L	1	Pt. Abino (Ont)	Jacklin, Bonefant
Magnolia Warbler	5	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
* Cape May Warbler	1F	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	3	1	St. Columbans	Neveu
"	15	1	Amherst SP	Yoerg
Bl.-thr. Blue Warbler	2	1	Lake Erie SP	Neveu
"	2	1	Amherst SP	Yoerg
Pine Warbler	10	4	Chestnut Ridge Pk	Morgante
"	25 - 31	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	26	1	Wales	D'Anna
"	27	2	Somerset	Pawlicki
Prairie Warbler	20	3	Cherry Creek	Lazarczyk et al
"	24	1	Allegany SP	Baird
Palm Warbler	18	1	Lake Erie SP	Neveu
* Bay-breasted Warbler	6F	1	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	8	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
* Blackpoll Warbler	9F	1	Tifft NP	Watson et al (BOS)
"	11	1	Amherst SP	Sowinski
* Cerulean Warbler	2F	1	Pt. Gratiot	Wheeler
"	12	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
"	13; 18	1; 1	Wilson	Potter; D'Anna
"	15	2	Coldspring	Baird
"	30	8	Iroquois NWR & vicin.	Gordon, Rothman
Black-&-white Warb.	30	1	Wilson	Potter
* American Redstart	2F	1	Shelby	Beattie, Dart
"	6	1	Sheridan	Neveu
Prothonotary Warbler	23	3	Tonawanda WMA	Potter, D'Anna et al
"	24	1	Iroquois NWR	Lazarczyk, Wendte
* Worm-eating Warbler	12	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Ovenbird	1	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Northern Waterthrush	27	1	Olcott	Pawlicki
La. Waterthrush	2	1	Carroll	Berry
"	4	1	Villanova	Neveu
"	10	1	Hanover	Neveu
"	10	4	Chestnut Ridge Pk	Morgante
"	25	1	Perrysburg	Neveu
Mourning Warbler	20	1	Wilson	Potter

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	20	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Pawlicki, Watson
* Wilson's Warbler	13F	1	Lake Erie SP	Neveu
"	13F	1	Amherst SP	Yoerg
"	14	1	Forest Lawn Cem, Bflo	Gordon
"	28	1	Sheridan	Neveu
"	31L	1	Allegany SP	Baird
* Canada Warbler	2F	1	Forest Lawn Cem, Bflo	Gordon
"	7	1	Morgan's Point (Ont)	Jacklin
"	29	2	Four Mile Creek SP	Pawlicki, Watson
Scarlet Tanager	2	1	Oakfield	Beattie, Dart
"	3	1	Tifft NP	Morgante
* Clay-col. Sparrow	16	1	<u>Wilson-Tuscarora SP</u>	Pawlicki, D'Anna
Vesper Sparrow	3 - 31	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
Grasshopper Sparrow	24	2	Artpark SP	Potter, D'Anna
Lincoln's Sparrow	12; 28L	1	Tifft NP	Mitchell; Watson
"	20	1	Hamburg	Pawlicki
"	27	1	Pt. Gratiot	Neveu
White-thr. Sparrow	24	1	Tifft NP	Morgante
"	30L	1	Wilson	Potter
White-cr. Sparrow	1	1	Buffalo	D'Anna
"	1	4	Silver Creek	Neveu
Indigo Bunting	2	1	Carroll	Berry
"	5 - 7	1	Youngstown (f)	Landon, Yonker
Rusty Blackbird	2	2	Newstead	Hess
"	5	30	Amherst	Pawlicki
Orchard Oriole	2	1	Welland (Ont)	B&J Farnan
"	2 - 30	1	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	5	1	Eden (f)	Andrle
"	16; 30	2; 1	Wilson	D'Anna; Potter
"	28	3	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg
"	29	1 m & 1 f	Pomfret	Neveu
White-w. Crossbill	27L	6	Olcott	Pawlicki
Pine Siskin	4	58	Eden (f)	Andrle
"	30	1	Orchard Park	Morgante
"	30	3	Wilson	Yoerg
"	31	2	Williamsville	Salembier
"	31	6	Jamestown	Berry

Species, subspecies, and named hybrids previously recorded this year: 217

Species, subspecies, and named hybrids recorded this month: 047

Total for the year 2009: 264

Great Egret Color Banding - 2009

Bill Watson

On June 3, 2009, ten nestling Great Egrets were color-banded at the heron colony on Motor Island in the Niagara River under the direction of Connie Adams. Further west Chip Weseloh and his crew color-banded more than 300 young egrets this summer. Most at Nottawasaga Island in eastern Georgian Bay, near Collingwood, Ontario, but also included Great Egrets banded at a colony in western Lake Erie (Middle Sister Island) and 60+ at another colony in Lake Huron proper at Chantry Island near Southampton, Ontario. Please report Great Egrets with RED BANDS

WITH WHITE LETTER-NUMBERS USUALLY ABOVE THE "KNEE" OF THE LEFT LEG AND THE TRADITIONAL ALUMINUM BAND ABOVE THE "ANKLE" OF THE RIGHT LEG. If you find color-banded Great Egrets, please record the date, location, number of other egrets with them, and, if possible, the letter(s) and number(s) of the banding code. Report to any of: D. V. Chip Weseloh, Canadian Wildlife Service-Ontario Region, 4905 Dufferin St., Downsview, Ontario M3H 5T4 (416) 739-5846, chip.weseloh@ec.gc.ca; Connie Adams NYSDEC, 270 Michigan Ave., Buffalo, NY 14203, (716) 851-7010, cmadams@gw.dec.state.ny.us; William Watson, 771 Fletcher Street, Tonawanda, NY 14150, (716) 695-2820, williamwatsonsr@aol.com.

Report of the 2009 Annual B.O.S. May Bird Count

Date: May 17, 2009

Compiler: Robert L. DeLeon

Weather Synopsis (by Terry Yonker)

Clearing skies following passage of a cold front during the evening before the count gave way to cloudy skies by morning and early afternoon on count day. The gusty northwest winds of the previous evening became steady from the west overnight and gusty from the southwest by midday. A secondary cold front passed through the entire BOS study area by late afternoon and early evening. The gusty southwest winds accompanying the passage of the cold front shifted to the northwest and then north by late evening.

Greater Buffalo International Airport

Sunrise: 5:51 AM EDT

Sunset: 8:34 PM EDT

TIME	WEATHER	TEMP	DEW PT	PRESSURE	DIR/WIND	REMARKS
12:00 am	Mostly Cloudy	47°F	34°F	1016.2 mb	NW14/G21	
3:00 am	Mostly Cloudy	44	29	1019.2	W10	
6:00 am	Mostly Cloudy	40	29	1021.1	W12	
9:00 am	Mostly Cloudy	43	26	1023.2	W15/G21	
12:00 pm	Mostly Cloudy	48	29	1023.1	SW15/G21	
3:00 pm	Mostly Cloudy	53	31	1021.9	SW22/G25	
6:00 pm	Partly Cloudy	53	19	1022.7	W17	
9:00 pm	Partly Cloudy	48	17	1023.9	NW13	
12:00 am	Partly Cloudy	40	23	1025.3	N6	

Compilation: The following is a list of species recorded on the count together with the number of individuals tabulated. Bold face names indicate species for which acceptable written verification forms were received. **F** represents first and **L** last dates for the spring migration, * first date for the year. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the section numbers are given in parentheses.

Geese - Herons

Canada Goose	4077		Common Merganser	41
Mute Swan	21	(1,2,5)	Red-breasted Merganser	363
Wood Duck	197		Ruddy Duck	15
Gadwall	11	(7,8)	unspecified waterfowl	5
American Wigeon	8	(7,10)	Ring-necked Pheasant	15
American Black Duck	8		Ruffed Grouse	16
Mallard	600		Wild Turkey	72
Blue-winged Teal	9	(10,13)	Red-throated Loon	3 (4)
Northern Shoveler	5	(5,13,20)	Common Loon	12
Northern Pintail	3	(7)	Pied-billed Grebe	17
Green-winged Teal	4	(13,20)	Horned Grebe	2 (4)
Ring-necked Duck	6	(13)	Double-crested Cormorant	5029
Greater Scaup	8	(9)	American Bittern	5 (10)
Lesser Scaup	24	(7)	Great Blue Heron	414
White-winged Scoter	4	(4,7)	Great Egret	71
Long-tailed Duck	178		Cattle Egret	1 (20)
Bufflehead	L	20	Green Heron	46
Common Goldeneye	L	3 (3)	Black-crowned Night-Heron	82
Hooded Merganser	30			

Vultures - Cranes

Turkey Vulture	617		American Kestrel	57
Osprey	16		Merlin	1 (17)
Bald Eagle	24		Peregrine Falcon	9 (10,11)
Northern Harrier	18		unspecified hawks	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	15		Virginia Rail	4 (7,9,12)
Cooper's Hawk	17		Sora	1 (8)
Red-shouldered Hawk	11		Common Moorhen	1 (2)
Broad-winged Hawk	15		American Coot	8

Red-tailed Hawk		210		Sandhill Crane	2	(6)
Rough-legged Hawk		6	(12,20)			
Plovers – Terns						
Black-bellied Plover	*F	1	(8)	Wilson’s Snipe	2	(11,23)
Semipalmated Plover		60		American Woodcock	12	
Killdeer		362		unspecified shorebirds	7	
Spotted Sandpiper		96		Bonaparte’s Gull	2711	
Solitary Sandpiper		32		Ring-billed Gull	10479	
Greater Yellowlegs	L	5	(4,10,13)	Herring Gull	454	
Lesser Yellowlegs		26	(4,8,22)	Glaucous Gull	2	(4,7)
Upland Sandpiper		1	(10)	Great Black-backed Gull	97	
Semipalmated Sandpiper		19	(13,22)	unspecified gulls	16	
Least Sandpiper		372		Caspian Tern	241	
Pectoral Sandpiper		1	(8)	Black Tern	21	(10)
Dunlin		116		Common Tern	299	
Short-billed Dowitcher		8	(17)			
Pigeons - Swallows						
Rock Pigeon		930		Willow Flycatcher	10	(4,23,13)
Mourning Dove		1180		Least Flycatcher	34	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo		18		unspecified Empidonax	8	
Black-billed Cuckoo		13		Eastern Phoebe	159	
Eastern Screech-Owl		6	(4,20)	Great-crested Flycatcher	172	
Great Horned Owl		5		Eastern Kingbird	246	
Barred Owl		5	(23,28)	White-eyed Vireo	3	(13,20)
Common Nighthawk		2	(20)	Yellow-throated Vireo	13	
Chimney Swift		174		Blue-headed Vireo	32	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird		238		Warbling Vireo	166	
Belted Kingfisher		48		Philadelphia Vireo	14	
Red-headed Woodpecker		20		Red-eyed Vireo	300	
Red-bellied Woodpecker		195		Blue Jay	804	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		78		American Crow	2112	
Downy Woodpecker		215		Common Raven	15	
Hairy Woodpecker		93		Horned Lark	55	
Northern Flicker		271		Purple Martin	278	
Pileated Woodpecker		30		Tree Swallow	2373	
Olive-sided Flycatcher	*F	1	(23)	Bank Swallow	420	
Eastern Wood Pewee		47		N. Rough-winged Swallow	1312	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	*F	2	(11,15)	Cliff Swallow	275	
Acadian Flycatcher		1	(20)	Barn Swallow	3210	
Alder Flycatcher	*F	2	(7)			
Tits - Waxwings						
Black-capped Chickadee		656		Veery	98	
Tufted Titmouse		122		Gray-cheeked Thrush	5	
Red-breasted Nuthatch		30		Swanison’s Thrush	40	
White-breasted Nuthatch		146		Hermit Thrush	8	
Brown Creeper		16		Wood Thrush	149	
Carolina Wren		15		American Robin	5977	
House Wren		412		Gray Catbird	873	
Winter Wren		6		Northern Mockingbird	18	
Marsh Wren		10		Brown Thrasher	40	
Golden-crowned Kinglet		9		European Starling	6525	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		17		American Pipit	60	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		35		Cedar Waxwing	270	
Eastern Bluebird		259				
Warblers						
Blue-winged Warbler		87		Palm Warbler	27	
Brewster’s Warbler (hybrid)		1	(17)	Bay-breasted Warbler	43	

Tennessee Warbler	59		Blackpoll Warbler	46	
Orange-crowned Warbler	2	(3,13)	Cerulean Warbler	12	(4,13,24)
Nashville Warbler	44		Black-and-white Warbler	39	
Northern Parula	25		American Redstart	263	
Yellow Warbler	1700		Prothonotary Warbler	*	1 (5)
Chestnut-sided Warbler	217		Ovenbird	101	
Magnolia Warbler	171		Northern Waterthrush	22	
Cape May Warbler	15		Louisiana Waterthrush	3	(13,18)
Black-throated Blue Warbler	91		Mourning Warbler	*F	14
Yellow-rumped Warbler	271		Common Yellowthroat	532	
Black-throated Green Warbler	116		Hooded Warbler	105	
Blackburnian Warbler	83		Wilson's Warbler	24	
Pine Warbler	11		Canada Warbler	21	
Prairie Warbler	5	(18,20,25)	unspecified warblers	13	
Tanagers – House Sparrows					
Scarlet Tanager	96		Rose-breasted Grosbeak	481	
Summer Tanager	*	1 (4)	Indigo Bunting	129	
Eastern Towhee	124		Bobolink	650	
American Tree Sparrow	L	5 (13,20)	Red-winged Blackbird	5104	
Chipping Sparrow	907		Eastern Meadowlark	116	
Field Sparrow	126		Rusty Blackbird	L	3 (27,28)
Savannah Sparrow	129		Common Grackle	2867	
Grasshopper Sparrow	*F	2 (10,20)	Brown-headed Cowbird	1061	
Song Sparrow	1228		Orchard Oriole	11	
Fox Sparrow	L	2 (20)	Baltimore Oriole	1019	
Lincoln's Sparrow	8		Purple Finch	197	
Swamp Sparrow	56		House Finch	250	
White-throated Sparrow	64		Red Crossbill	21	(18)
White-crowned Sparrow	142		American Goldfinch	2053	
unspecified sparrows	8		Evening Grosbeak	*	5 (27)
Dark-eyed Junco	199		House Sparrow	1397	
Northern Cardinal	679				

SUMMARY INFORMATION: Total species observed: 210 (third highest ever)
Total individual birds observed: 82,685 (below average for the last decade)
Number of observers: 246

COMMENTS: A very good count featuring many high species counts and few low species counts. An unusual combination of a large number of species and a relatively small number of total birds.

HIGHEST EVER COUNTS FOR 1935-2009 COMPARED TO [AVERAGE 1965-2009]:

Mute Swan 21 [2], Double-crested Cormorant 5029 [667], Great Egret (71) [10], Bald Eagle 24 [4], Peregrine Falcon 9 [1], Least Sandpiper 372 [94], Bonaparte's Gull 2711 [205], Glaucous Gull 2 [0.2], Caspian Tern 241 [42].

LOW COUNTS FOR 1935-2009 COMPARED TO [AVERAGE 1965-2009]:

Common Moorhen (lowest ever) 1 [16], Golden-winged Warbler (lowest ever) 0 [9], Purple Martin (2nd lowest ever) 278 [730].

NOTABLE RARE SIGHTINGS: Summer Tanager (Verification Report Jim Pawlicki), American Tree Sparrow (Verification Report Jodi Laird), Brewster's Warbler, Cattle Egret.

OBSERVERS (Section compilers are printed in **bold** face.):

Section 1: David Cooper, **Lynne Landon**, Terry Yonker

Section 2: Brian Ahara, **John Black**, Kayo Roy, Dan Salisbury, John Stevens, Maggie Smiley, Katherine Stoltz

Section 3: Ron Billings, Ed Crohn, Jerald Farrell, Elden Fischer, Kathryn Fischer, Osias Fischer, Patti Fischer, Terri Fischer, David Gordon, Nicholas Randall, **Donald Roberson**, Timothy Simon, Mary Ann Stegmeier, John Welte, Martha Welte, Paul Ziebarth, Virginia Ziebarth

Section 4: Willie D'Anna, Julie Eberhart, Kyle Horton, Neal Gordon, Nick Glabicky, Melissa Graham, Jim Pawlicki, Sherry Pocziwinski, Tom Pocziwinski, Betsy Potter, Gary Steele, Holly Sweeney, **Bill Watson**

Section 5: Don Brasure, Morgan Jones, Bill Rogers, Jim Rozanski, **Elizabeth Wells**

Section 6: **Jerry Chapple**, George Thomas

- Section 7:** Barbara Byron, Richard Byron, **Mike Hamilton**, Roswitha Matuschek, Jim Smith
- Section 8:** Doug Happ, **Mike Zebehazy**
- Section 9:** Mike Galas, Sylvia Galas, Ron Hacker, Sue Hacker, Paul Hess, Christopher Hollister, Bernie Kester, Jerry Lazarczyk, Debra Milleville, **Gary Rising**
- Section 10:** Donna V. DeLeon, **Robert L. DeLeon**
- Section 11:** Barbara Henderson, Marilyn O'Connell, **Thomas O'Donnell**, Richard Salembier, Nancy Vigyikan, Paul Vigyikan, Peter Yoerg
- Section 12:** Chris Akios, **Greg Coniglio**, Paul Fuhrmann, Linda Holmes, Mahlon Miller, Nancy Miller, Mike Morgante, Gail Seamans
- Section 13:** Doug Bassett, **Doug Beattie**, Sharon Beattie, Carol Britton, Elaine Dart, Tad Gerace, David Graney, Jack Hartwig, Jodi Laird, Jane Mason, Marc Mason, Max Mason, Jim Ochterski, Diane Stringham, Donald Thureau, Ginny Tiede, John Volpe
- Section 14:** Bob Andrie, Ken Brandes, Joanne Dobbler, Tim Goff, **Fred Harrington**, Mark Leous, Glena Leous, Patty Madigan, Chris Newton, Sue Saunders, Nancy Vigyikan, Paul Vigyikan
- Section 15:** **William Bogacki**, Christian Newton
- Section 16:** Thomas Connare, Audrey Horbett, **Francis Rew**
- Section 17:** **Joe Mitchell**
- Section 18:** **Bruce Chilton**, Mike Desha, Jim Landau, Karen Landau, Jim Wojewodzki
- Section 19:** Ron Andrews, **Doris Burton**, Art Cooper, Betty Fegley, James Fegley, John Fegley, John Hasper, Cathy, Kruser, Dora Lilly, Dan Merritt, Meg Merritt, Louise Mills, Larry, Mullen, Sam Norton, Virginia Norton, Sean Plean, Michael Raybuck, Teresa Rork, Carol Stonemetz, Ann Voss, Denton Wilson, Jean Wilson, **Larry Wilson**, Richard Wilson
- Section 20:** Alan Benton, Chris Budniewski, Ray Budniewski, Diane Clark, Silvia Clarke, **Paul Farver**, Joanne Goetz, Tom Goetz, Joe Gula, Carol Hardenburg, Terry Mahoney, Dick Miga, Terry Mosher, David Neveu, Lucille Neveu, Bob Peterson, Beverly Ruska, John Ruska, Mary Shearmon, Jeannie Smith, Ted Taft, Jr., Ted Taft, Sr.
- Section 21:** Dan Cordosi, **Sue Lawton**, Jessie Nelson, Joanne Nelson, **Linda O'Brien**, Bob Sundell
- Section 22:** Bob Baglia, Ann Beebe, Rita Carden, Laura Damon, Nancy Karp, Norman Karp, Sue Lawton, **Linda O'Brien**, Herb Smith, Bob Sundell, Kirk Vanstrom, Dan Cordosi
- Section 23:** Dan Cordosi, Peg Jewett, Ruth Lundin, Steve Magg, Jean Pigman, Tom Simmons, **Linda O'Brien**, Bob Sundell
- Section 24:** **Tim Baird**,
- Section 25:** **Tim Baird**, Mike Ermer, Jeff Reed, James Van Scoy, Regina Van Scoy
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Tifft Nature Preserve Field Trip

Bill Watson

May 9, 2009, was a pleasant day in the morning with the temperature increasing from 60°F at 8:00 AM to 69°F by 12:00 noon when the field trip ended. The winds were from the Southwest at 9 mph, but by the time the field trip ended they had increased to 17 mph. The first trail we took was Snakeroot where we found many White-throated Sparrows, Brown-headed Cowbirds, Gray Catbirds, and a Warbling Vireo, a Chestnut-sided Warbler, and a Blackpoll Warbler. Here we were also entertained by a Rose-breasted Grosbeak and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

We then proceeded east on Old Tifft Street where we observed Black-and-white Warbler, a handsome male Black-throated Blue Warbler, and Magnolia Warbler. Going west on Warbler Walk we saw a Great Egret feeding in Bern Marsh, a Blue-headed Vireo, and an American Redstart. We then went to the best hotspot, Mosquito Junction Board Walk and studied Least Flycatcher, Northern Parula, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, heard an Ovenbird, Swainson's Thrush, and a calling Pied-billed Grebe. Continuing down Heritage and Rabbit Run we spied Common Yellowthroat, finally a Palm Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Cape May Warbler, and Scarlet Tanager. At Beth Pond we were surprised to find a Common Goldeneye and a pair of Lesser Scaup.

In summary a pleasant day was had by all, meeting old friends, making new friends, enjoying pleasant conversation, and finding some 65 bird species of which 18 were warblers. We would all like to thank Bill Bogacki for leading the first part of the trip and Chris Newton for leading the second part of the trip.



Prothonotary Warbler checking out artificial box #16. Photographed by Jim Pawlicki at Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area on May 23, 2009. Did Prothonotary Warblers nest in the boxes??

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August – October Calendar

BOS website

<http://www.bosbirding.org/>



Buffalo-Niagara Region
Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

Aug. 16: Sunday. Lake Erie Shorebird Count. Coordinator: Lynne Landon (745-9129) or llandon@daemen.edu. BOS members are encouraged to participate.

Aug. 30: Sunday. Canadian shoreline of Lake Erie (including Rock Point PP) for shorebirds. Leader: Douglas Happ (649-1297). Meet at 7:00 AM at Vermont and Busti near the Peace Bridge. We will car pool from there. Among other places, we will be going to Rock Point Provincial Park, which charges \$13.00 Canadian per car for entry, so bring Canadian money if you have it. Make sure you have a passport, passport card. Nexus, or enhanced drivers license.

Sept. 9: BOS Meeting. Tifft Nature Preserve. Due to the Body Worlds exhibit at the Buffalo Museum of Science, the September 9 meeting will be held at Tifft Nature Preserve on Fuhrman Boulevard. Bring along your favorite stories, disks, or slides on a carousel to share with the other members. Also Bob Maucelli from Rochester will give a short presentation on the NYSOA Young Birders group.

Sept. 12: Saturday. Tifft Nature Preserve and Times Beach for warblers and shorebirds. Leader: Chris Newton (Cnewton2@roadrunner.com 716-225-8055). Meet at 8:00 AM in the Tifft N. P. parking lot. This is a half-day trip.

Sept. 26: Saturday. The 62nd Annual Meeting of the New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA) will be held at the Montezuma Audubon Center. The registration form was is on the NYSOA web site: <http://www.nybirds.org>. The registration deadline is September 5, 2009.

Oct. 11, Sunday: BOS Annual October Count. All BOS members are asked to participate. It's always a great count, so if you can join us please contact: Mike Hamilton at 881-6709 or mhsr@wzrd.com.

Oct. 14: BOS Anniversary Dinner will be held at Salvatore's Italian Garden on 6461 Transit Road in Depew. World renowned owl expert and founder of the Owl Foundation in Ontario, Canada, Dr. Kay McKeever will be our much honored and admired keynote speaker.



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THE MONTH: June

Mike DeSha

Steve McLaughlin of the National Weather Service characterized the month's weather as "not a perfect June...but pleasant enough. The average temperature of 64.5° was 1.3° cooler than normal. There were no extremes or records. Twenty of the first twenty-one days averaged normal or a little below while there were consecutive warm days from the 22nd to the 27th. Temperatures reached into the 80's on only five days compared to the usual ten.

Rainfall totaled 2.9 inches, which is nearly an inch below normal. Totals varied widely across the region during the unsettled weather of the last part of the month; several heavier showers and thunderstorms missed the airport by only a few miles. The southern suburbs and the southern part of Buffalo received 4 to 6 inches for the month and the North Towns got closer to 3 inches. The early part of the month was very dry. There was no rain until the 8th and a little under 0.6 inch through the 16th, but some rain fell on five of the last six days, alleviating the dryness from earlier in the spring.

The unsettled weather of the final week reduced the amount of sunshine for the month. The monthly total of 54% was 11% less than normal and the least amount of June sunshine in nine years. It also ended a streak of unusually sunny months which began in January. Winds were relatively light during June with some higher gusts in thunderstorms during the final week. Lake Erie warmed to 68° by the end of the month, which was very close to the normal temperature of 67°."

Once again this June, as in June of 2006, gulls provided much of the birding excitement early in the month and then toward the end. On the afternoon of June 6th, Dominic Sherony, Jeanne Skelly, and Gary Chapin were studying

river. As they sorted through the gulls, Chapin first noted a smaller gull with a smaller bill and darker carpal bars than the Bonaparte's. He identified it as a Little Gull and as the three continued to sift through the gulls, they found two additional Little Gulls, all in first summer plumage. The June 2006 sighting of Little Gull was the first June record and this documentation added three more.

Then on the morning of the 21st at the same location Jim Pawlicki found an incredible nine Little Gulls in various stages of first alternate plumage and captured some remark-



Little Gulls photographed by Gary Chapin (top) and Jim Pawlicki (bottom) on the Niagara River at Fort Niagara State Park (Coast Guard Station) on June 6th and 21st respectively.

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300 or so Bonaparte's Gulls present on the Niagara River at the Coast Guard Station at the mouth of the

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able photographs. Pawlicki noted that among the nine gulls "Head coloration varied from minimal black mottling across the crown and nape on two individuals to a full, adult-like hood on another individual. Most were between the two extremes having a whitish head with a black auricular spot and fairly extensive black cap/partial hood." The same afternoon Watson, alerted by Pawlicki, was able to see one Little Gull very briefly. He identified it by "the strikingly dark M pattern on the wings. It was much darker and bolder than the M pattern on the wings of the many Bonaparte's Gulls it was flying with."

As noted in *Birds of North America* "The smallest gull worldwide, the Little Gull breeds in small numbers in North America but its main range is the Palearctic. Although numbers are generally increasing in

North America, few breeding locations are known. In North America the species is most frequently observed during winter and on migration in groups of 1-3, usually associated with larger flocks of Bonaparte's Gulls along coasts or larger inland lakes and rivers, although loose flocks >100 have been recorded along the U.S. east coast and on the Great Lakes. Migration routes within North America are poorly known."*

In between these sightings, and almost duplicating the sightings by Pawlicki in 2006, on June 9th Bill Watson at the same location found a very rare Black-headed Gull, most likely the one seen and reported previously on May 29th. This is only the second June record of Black-headed Gull.

On June 22nd, Watson and Mark Schlacter found an adult male Bufflehead at the Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant. Watson provided documentation for the sighting as there are only a few records of Bufflehead in our area in June.

The Van Scoys reported seeing a male Northern Harrier in Limestone, Cattaraugus County on the 7th, 21st and 25th. Tim Baird spotted two Northern Goshawks in Allegany

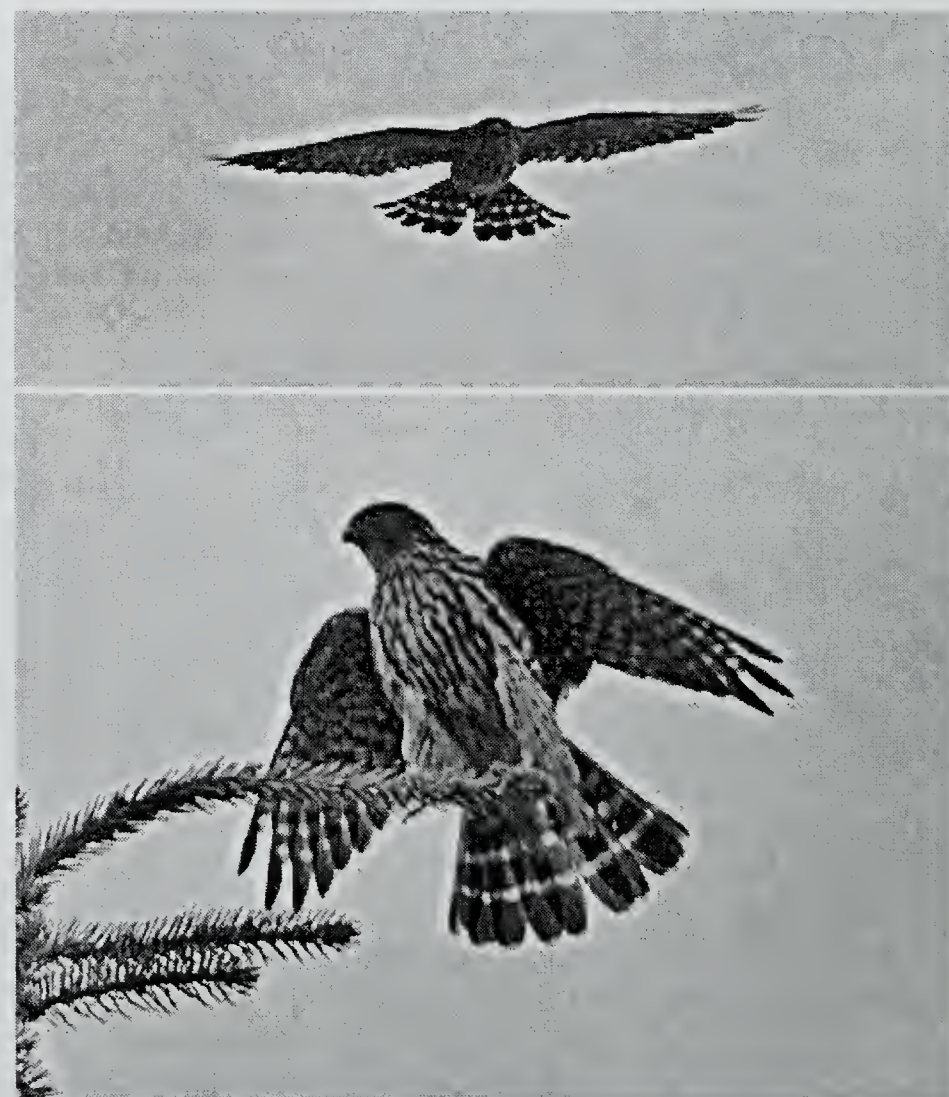
State Park on the 7th, one of which spotted and harassed him.

Records of summer Merlins are becoming more numerous with each passing year. Tom Simmons reported what appeared to be a nesting pair in Jamestown, Chautauqua County, on June 27-30. Interestingly these falcons were seen stooping on tethered raptors, a Harris Hawk and Red-tailed Hawk, belonging to a falconer in Jamestown. Simmons photographed the female Merlin on the 28th while it engaged in some of this activity. Because of the Merlin's behavior, Simmons surmised that the yard in which the tethered birds were kept was near the Merlins' nest.

Yoerg reported finding 10 Virginia Rails and 4 Soras at Tonawanda WMA on the 2nd. Betsy Potter and Willie D'Anna found a Sedge Wren in the Town of Porter on the 14th.

On the 6th Tim Baird and others on a field trip with participants at the Roger Tory Peterson Birding Festival found a Yellow-throated Warbler at Red House Lake in Allegany State Park. On the 14th Bill Watson documented a Yellow-throated Warbler spotted by Mark Schlacter and he in the same area. This marks the sixth consecutive year that a Yellow-throated Warbler has been found in this area since breeding individuals were found in the last years of the field work on the Second Breeding Bird Atlas.

On the 14th Willie D'Anna and Betsy Potter heard a singing Clay-colored Sparrow along Youngstown-Wilson Road in the Town of Wilson while engaged in their breeding bird survey along this route. Returning on the 20th,



Merlin photographed by Tom Simmons in Jamestown (Chautauqua County) on June 28th.

Great Egret Banding Update - 2009

Bill Watson

This breeding season over 300 Great Egrets were banded at their colonies in western Lake Erie (Middle Sister Island) in Georgian Bay (Nottawasaga Island and Chantry Island) and Motor Island in the Niagara River. As of August 17th there have been a remarkable 25 resightings of these color-banded egrets!

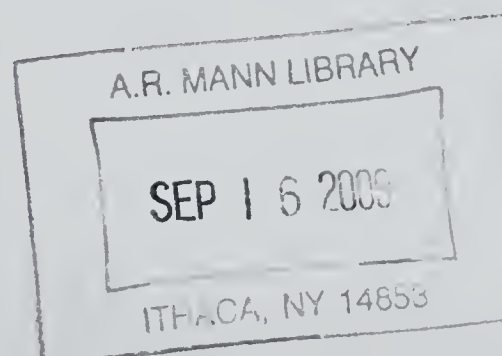
On May 31st Peter Yoerg found our first spring record of a color-banded Great Egret at the Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area in western New York. At Reesor Pond in Markham, which is 14 miles north-northeast of Toronto, Ontario, Winnie Poon and Roy Smith and were able to obtain the band number and a photograph on one egret, observed on July 5, 2009, associating with 6 other non-banded Great Egrets. Jean Iron at Reesor Pond observed this same bird on August 3rd. On July 23rd a banded adult Great Egret was spotted with two other egrets, one of which had a metal band on the right leg, at the Sheridan Park Golf Course in Tonawanda. August 2nd Peter Yoerg successfully read the band code of a Great Egret at Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant. August 7th I read the band code of a second Great Egret at Batavia WWTP, and on August 8th Willie D'Anna was able to find both birds and read their band codes. On August 16th Kim Saucy and Kim Marie photographed two banded birds at Batavia WWTP. On the 17th I found the same bird at Batavia that I identified on the 7th. August 9th at the Hydro Marsh in Durham, Ontario, Winnie Poon found another banded Great Egret and read the code. August 17th Clive Hodder hit the jackpot and read the band codes of nine Great Egrets at Luther Marsh the upper Grand River Valley, 25 miles north of Guelph, Ontario.

If you observe a color-banded Great Egrets, please record the date, location, number of other egrets and, if possible, the letter(s) and number(s) of the banding code, so we can better document the dispersal pattern of these fledglings. Report sighting to one of the following:

D. V. Chip Weseloh, Canadian Wildlife Service-Ontario Region, 4905 Dufferin St., Downsview, Ontario, M3H 5T4
Phone: 416-739-5846, email: chip.weseloh@ec.gc.ca.

Connie Adams, NYSDEC, 270 Michigan Ave., Buffalo, NY 14203, Phone (716) 851-7010, email: cmadams@gw.dec.state.ny.us

William Watson, 771 Fletcher Street, Tonawanda, NY 14150, Phone (716) 695-2820, williamwatsonsr@aol.com

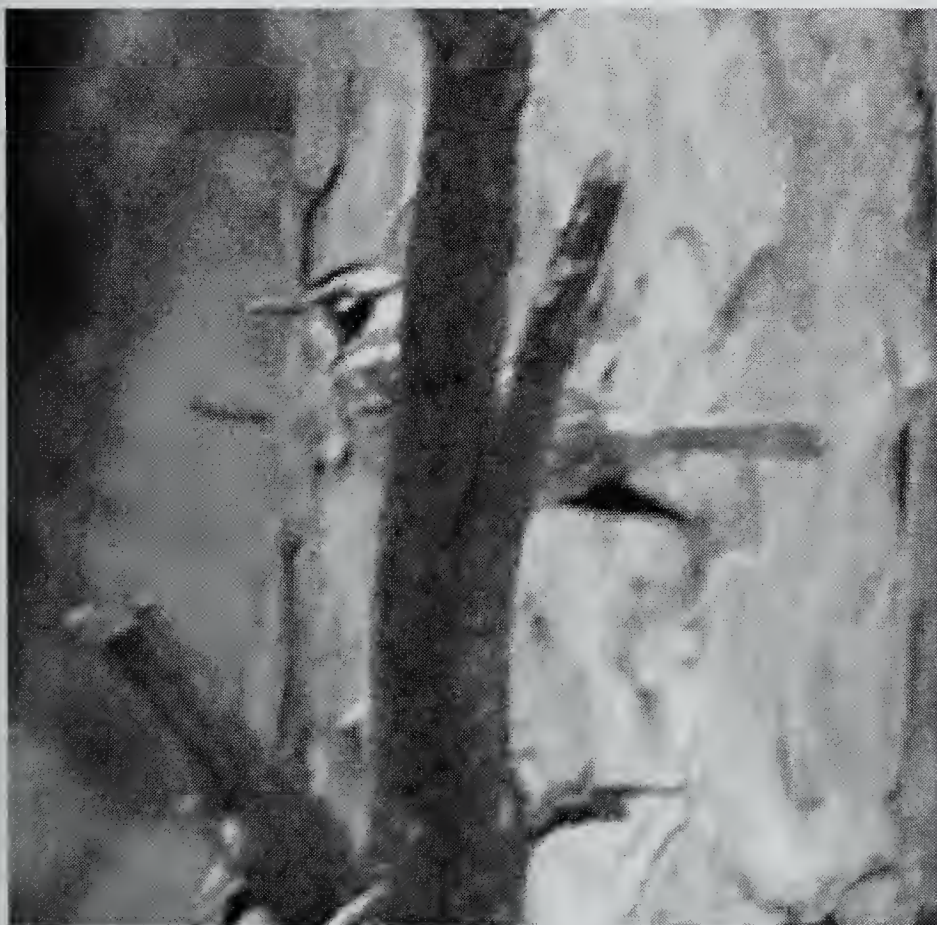


birding alone and then joined by Andy Guthrie. D'Anna first saw the sparrow and distinguished it from a Chipping Sparrow by its "white median crown stripe, pale lores, and song." On the 21st Jim Pawlicki saw a Clay-colored Sparrow in the same area, presumably the same one as seen and heard by the others. With the exception of Henslow's Sparrow, which was not reported, grassland sparrows were seen at various locations. Yoerg and Henderson found 7 Vesper Sparrows in Ashford on the 28th and Salembier found 6 Grasshopper Sparrows at Tillman Road WMA on the 19th.

On the 3rd Bill Watson found a totally unexpected White-crowned Sparrow. White-crowned Sparrows are numerous on migration in May, but the sighting of this individual appears to be the first record of an individual of this species lingering in our area into June.

Bob Andrle reported a Pine Siskin visiting his feeder in Eden from the 6th through the 24th, while Wojewodzki had one at his feeder in Holland on the 28th and 30th. The most interesting account of siskins came from the Somervilles reporting on their feeding station in Varysburg where a pair of Pine Siskins fed daily from the 1st through the 26th and then from the 27th through the 30th the two were accompanied by three youngsters.

*Ewins, Peter J. and D.V. Weseloh. 1999. Little Gull, (*Larus minutus*) The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.) Ithaca Cornell Lab of Ornithology



Yellow-throated Warbler photographed by Bill Watson near Red House Lake in Allegany State Park on June 14th.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Eighth Edition - Revised 2007) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration.

(f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicates nest(s). (yg) Indicates young.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BCh314159@aol.com.

<u>Species</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Mute Swan	21	2 ad + 3 yg	Wilson	Watson, Schlacter
Gadwall	5, 22	1, 5	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	13	1	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
American Wigeon	5	5	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	14	2	Black Rock Canal	Morgante
Blue-winged Teal	3	2	Conewango Swp WMA	Lazarczyk, Rosche
Lesser Scaup	13	1	Tonawanda WMA	Watson, Schlacter
Scaup species	20	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Bufflehead	<u>22</u>	1 m	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Schlacter
Common Merganser	9	3	Niagara Falls	Watson, Schlacter
"	22	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
"	30	2	Sheridan	Neveu
Ruddy Duck	5, 22	7, 5	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Common Loon	1	1	Buffalo	Yoerg
"	2	1	Grand I. (East River)	Sharon
Pied-billed Grebe	2	1 + 6 yg	Tifft NP	Watson
"	13	1	Alexander	Dart
American Bittern	2	4	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg
Great Blue Heron	3	29 ad+81 y	Motor I.	Watson
Great Egret	2	12	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg
"	2 - 27	1 - 2	Tonawanda	Hess
"	3, 10	27, 76	Motor I.	Watson
Black-cr. Night-Heron	3	5 ad + 2 yg	Motor I.	Watson
"	5	2	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Osprey	2; 13	2; 2 n	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
"	3	2 + n	Tonawanda	Watson
"	7	1	North Harmony	Berry
"	13	3 + 1 yg	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Schlacter
"	14	11 a + 10 y	Allegany SP	Watson, Schlacter
Bald Eagle	4; 15	2 ad + 2 yg	Alexander	Dart, Beattie; Watson
"	6	1	Salamanca	Yoerg
"	16	2 juv	Dayton	Neveu
"	24	2 juv	Silver Creek	Neveu
Northern Harrier	7, 21, 25	1 m	Limestone	VanScoy
Northern Goshawk	7	2 ad	Allegany SP	Baird
Merlin	<u>28, 30</u>	2	Jamestown	Simmons et al
Peregrine Falcon	16	3 ad + 4 yg	UB south campus	Yoerg
Virginia Rail	2	10	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg
"	2	1	Tifft NP	Watson

<u>Species</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	5	1	Watts Flats WMA	D'Anna et al
"	16	2	Dayton	Neveu
Sora	2	4	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg
Semipalm. Plover	2; 13L	6; 1	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg; Watson
Upland Sandpiper	2; 19	1; 5	Tillman Road WMA	Yoerg; Salembier
"	18	4	Colden	J Landau
Semipalm. Sandpiper	2; 5L	60; 5	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg; Watson
"	5L	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Least Sandpiper	2L	3	Darien Lakes SP	Mitchell
"	2L	5	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg
White-r. Sandpiper	2; 13L	8; 1	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg; Watson, Schlaeter
Dunlin	2; 5	3; 2	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg; Watson
"	5	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Little Gull	<u>13</u>	3	Fort Niagara SP	Sherony et al
"	<u>21</u>	9	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki
Black-headed Gull	<u>9</u>	1	Fort Niagara SP	Watson
Bonaparte's Gull	9; 21	150; 180	Fort Niagara SP	Watson; Pawlicki
Caspian Tern	20	50	Wilson	D'Anna, Guthrie
"	21	35	Olcott Beach	D'Anna
Common Tern	9, 21	38, 35	Fort Niagara SP	Watson
Black Tern	6; 27	15; 18	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell; Hess
Barred Owl	14	1 ad + 3 yg	Orchard Park	Morgante
Common Nighthawk	1 - 30	1 - 2	Buffalo	Yoerg
"	2	8	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg
"	5	2	Grand I.	Sharon
"	7	1	Tonawanda	Hess
"	8	2	Dunkirk	Sanden
Whip-poor-will	19	4	Port Colborne (Ont)	Rew, J&K Landau
Red-headed Wdpr.	2	2	Mouth of Silver Creek	Neveu
"	12	1	Orchard Park (f)	Zebehazy
"	21	2	Olcott Beach	D'Anna
"	27	1 ad + 1 yg	Fort Erie (Ont)	Jacklin
Yellow-b. Flycatcher	1, 3	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	1, 3	1, 1	Buffalo	Yoerg
"	5	2	Portland	Neveu
"	8L	1	Deer Lick NP	Neveu
Acadian Flycatcher	5	2	Portland	Neveu
"	6	1	Busti	Berry
"	7; 21	4; 2	Allegany SP	Baird; Yoerg
"	8, 16	7, 5	Deer Lick NP	Neveu
Acadian Flycatcher	22	2	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Schlaeter
"	24	1	Hunter's Creek Pk	Mitchell
Yellow-thr. Vireo	2	1	Tillman Road WMA	Yoerg
Common Raven	2, 4	2	Andover	Brooks
"	6	3	Busti	Berry, Morgante
"	28	2	Ashford	Yoerg, Henderson
"	29	4	Birdsall	Brooks
Purple Martin	3	150	Axeville	Lazarczyk, Rosche
"	4	8	Bethany	Beattie
Bank Swallow	3	200	Axeville	Lazarczyk, Rosche
Cliff Swallow	4	6	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
"	4	70 + 138 n	Tonawanda I.	Watson
"	21	20 + 23 n	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
Carolina Wren	2	2	Brant	Neveu

<u>Species</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	6	1	Busti	Berry
"	7, 8	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	15	1	Hunter's Creek Pk	Mitchell
Winter Wren	6	1	Busti	Berry, Morgante
"	7, 28	3, 3	Ward	Brooks
"	12, 26	4, 5	Arkwright	Neveu
"	18	1	Cold Creek SF	Watson, Schlacter
"	21; 29	1; 1	Allegany SP	Yoerg, Henderson; Baird
* Sedge Wren	14	1	Porter	Potter, D'Anna
Veery	1L	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	1L	1	Tonawanda (night mig)	Hess
Gray-checked Thrush	2L	1	Tonawanda (night mig)	Hess
Swainson's Thrush	1	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	2L	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	7; 21	1; 1	Allegany SP	Baird; Yoerg
Northern Mockingbird	2	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	23	1	Alden	Mitchell
Nashville Warbler	6	2	Watts Flats WMA	D'Anna et al
"	8	2	Deer Lick NP	Neveu
"	12	1	Arkwright	Neveu
Northern Parula	6; 21	2; 9	Allegany SP	Baird; Yoerg
"	14	1	South Valley	Schlacter
Chestnut-s. Warbler	13L	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
Magnolia Warbler	1	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	3L	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
* <u>Yellow-thr. Warbler</u>	6; 14	1; 1	Allegany SP	Baird; Watson
Pine Warbler	1 - 10	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	9	3	Olcott	Watson, Schlacter
"	14	1	Somerset	D'Anna, Potter
"	21	1	Allegany SP	Yoerg
"	26	2	Arkwright	Neveu
Prairie Warbler	3, 5, 6	1, 2, 1	Andover	Brooks
"	6	1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	18	2	Pike	Watson, Schlacter
"	19	3	Rushford	Watson, Pawlicki
"	28	5	Yorkshire	Yoerg
Blackpoll Warbler	2L	1	Tifft NP	Watson
Cerulean Warbler	2	1	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg
"	6	1	Carrollton	Yoerg
"	6	2	Salamanca	Yoerg
"	13	1	Newstead	Watson, Schlacter
"	13, 22	1, 1	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Schlacter
"	21; 29	6; 2	Allegany SP	Yoerg; Baird
Black-&-white Warb.	6	5	Allegheny Ind. Res.	Yoerg
Prothonotary Warbler	13; 27	1; 1	Tonawanda WMA	Watson et al; Hess
La. Waterthrush	5, 6	1	Busti	Berry, Morgante
"	7	1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	12	1	Arkwright	Neveu
Mourning Warbler	1	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	14	1	Somerset	D'Anna, Potter
Hooded Warbler	14	1	Somerset	Potter, D'Anna
Canada Warbler	2L	1	Wilson	Potter
"	7, 14	1, 2	Ward	Brooks
"	18	1	Pike	Watson, Schlacter
Clay-col. Sparrow	14, 20	1	<u>Wilson</u>	Potter, D'Anna et al

<u>Species</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Vesper Sparrow	28	7	Ashford	Yoerg, Henderson
Grasshopper Sparrow	13	1	Clarence	Watson, Schlacter
"	14, 20	1, 2	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna, Guthrie
"	19	6	Tillman Road WMA	Salembier
"	21	1	Porter	Watson, Schlacter
"	23, 24	1, 2	Bethany	Beattie
White-thr. Sparrow	2, 20	4, 10	Alfred	Brooks
"	7, 14	2, 2	Ward	Brooks
White-cr. Sparrow	<u>3</u>	1	Tonawanda	Watson
Orchard Oriole	1, 7, 21	2	Pomfret	Neveu
"	3	3	Conewango Swp. WMA	Lazarczyk, Rosche
"	5	1	Watts Flats WMA	D'Anna et al
"	14; 21	1; 2	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter; Watson
"	30	1 f + 1 yg	Mouth of Catt. Creek	Neveu
Pine Siskin	1, 15, 21	1 - 2	Williamsville	Salembier
"	1 - <u>24</u>	2	Eden	Andrle
"	1 - <u>26</u>	2 ad	Varysburg	T&L Somerville
"	4	1	Jamestown (f)	Berry
"	<u>27-30</u>	2 + 3 yg	Varysburg	T&L Somerville
"	9	1	Wilson	Potter
"	9	1	Olcott	Watson, Schlacter
"	<u>28, 30</u>	1	Holland	Wojewodzki

Species, subspecies, and named hybrids previously recorded this year: **264**

Species, subspecies, and named hybrids recorded this month: **002**

Total for the year 2009: **266**

Statisticians' Note I: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision.

Statisticians' Note II: We are asking members of the BOS and any other birders who send in reports to the BOS to advise us as soon as they can of any possible errors in regard to records published in the Prothonotary, particularly in the Noteworthy Records so that we can make any necessary changes as soon as appropriate.

Buffalo Ornithological Society
Buffalo Museum of Science
1020 Humboldt Parkway
Buffalo, NY 14211-1293

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September – October Calendar

BOS website

<http://www.bosbirding.org/>



Buffalo-Niagara Region
Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

Sept. 9: BOS Meeting. Tifft Nature Preserve. Due to the Body Worlds exhibit at the Buffalo Museum of Science, the September 9 meeting will be held at Tifft Nature Preserve on Fuhrmann Boulevard. Bring along your favorite stories, disks, or slides on a carousel to share with the other members. Also Bob Maucelli from Rochester will give a short presentation on the NYSOA Young Birders group.

Sept. 12: Saturday. Tifft Nature Preserve and Times Beach for warblers and shorebirds. Leader: Chris Newton (Cnewton2@roadrunner.com 716-225-8055). Meet at 8:00 AM in the Tifft N. P. parking lot. This is a half-day trip.

Sept. 17-20: Midwest Birding Symposium in Lakeside, Ohio. See www.bird-watchersdigest.com/mwb/main.php for information.

Sept. 26: Saturday. The 62nd Annual Meeting of the New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA) will be held at the Montezuma Audubon Center. The registration form is on the NYSOA web site: <http://www.nybirds.org>. The registration deadline is September 5, 2009.

Oct. 11, Sunday: BOS Annual October Count. All BOS members are asked to participate. It's always a great count, so if you can join us please contact: Mike Hamilton at 881-6709 or mhsr@wzrd.com.

Oct. 14: BOS Anniversary Dinner will be held at Salvatore's Italian Garden on 6461 Transit Road in Depew at 6:30PM (see registration form sent with this issue). World renowned owl expert and founder of the Owl Foundation in Ontario, Canada, Dr. Kay McKeever will be our much honored and admired keynote speaker.

Oct. 24: Saturday not Sunday. Lake Ontario Plain Field Trip for fall migrants. Leader: Willie D'Anna (751-3637 or dannapotter@roadrunner.com). Meet at 8 a.m. at Tops Market in Wright's Corners. This is on the east side of Route 78 at Route 104.

The PROTHONOTARY



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THE MONTH: July

Elizabeth Wells

McLaughlin and Zaff summarize July as "... a very disappointing July with a promising finish." Whether or not you agree with them (I don't), this July certainly wasn't typical, temperatures were cooler than average and rainfall was above average. July's average temperature was 66.9°, 3.9° below normal, with 22 of the first 24 days cooler than normal. Only twice did we get into the 80's, in a month where we normally see 18 such days. It was the second coolest July in 67 years of airport records, and the sixth coolest in 137 years of records.

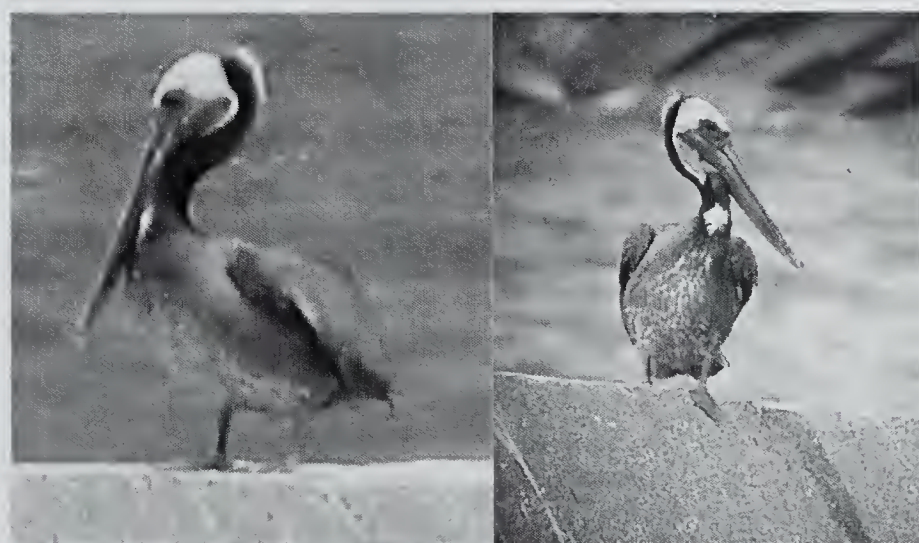
Rainfall was 4.37 inches, 1.23 inches above the average of 3.14 inches. July 11 brought heavy rains, with the Southtowns getting the worst of it. On the 23rd, The Northtowns had 2 – 3 inches falling in some areas, with local flooding. "The persistent upper low over the northeast [had] retrograded into the western Lakes ... placing our region on its eastern fringe. This resulted in the most interesting synoptic weather of the month." (McLaughlin/Zaff) A storm on the 25th produced hail at the airport, with tornadoes reported in Genesee and Monroe Counties. Another tornado was reported in Cattaraugus County on the 26th. More rain generally means less sun, we had 51% of possible sunshine, with the normal average at 67%. Mostly sunny days – 11, mostly cloudy – 7.

The last week of July, weather and temperatures were closer to normal. Lake Erie was 3° cooler than normal, reaching 70°. July winds were light to moderate, except during thunderstorms.

One of July's highlights was a Brown Pelican. It was seen on the far break wall in Dunkirk Harbor, Chautauqua County on July 6 by Joe Gula and was reported to the BOS OneCall system and written up by Jerry Lazarczyk. It was primarily preening and resting, making it easy for observers to find through July 8th. Jim Pawlicki noted that it was more than double the length of nearby

Greater Black-backed Gulls, and Bill Watson noted the same relationship to the Herring Gulls. All reports listed characteristics typical of pelicans, including a large, long bill (1/3 of body length) with a light tip; pouch or gular sack, pale yellow/yellow-gray; long neck, broad wings, short dark legs and webbed feet. Coloration was darker for head, hind parts, upper parts, breast and belly with a pale yellow face, a white crown and upper neck. Jim Pawlicki mentions "The bright feathering and skin coloration on the neck, head, and bill would indicate an adult or sub-adult, while the white diamond-shaped patch present at the base the neck along with other similar facial features would seem to confirm the bird as being the same individual Brown Pelican present around Fairport Harbor on the Lake Erie shore in NE Ohio around 1-2 July 2009."

On July 13th, Peter Schultz found a Brown Pelican carcass at Wide Beach near Farnham, NY. This is south of Evangola State Park and north of the Seneca Reservation in Erie County, not very far from Dunkirk Harbor. The Carcass was collected and taken to the Roger Tory Peterson Institute, where it was examined. Jim Berry reports it to be an immature, probable female. He notes, "The bird was in good vigor, not emaciated, moderate fat visible, no broken bones or other obvious signs of trauma" and "The throat



Brown Pelican photographed by Jerry Lazarczyk (left) and Bill Watson (right) at Dunkirk Harbor on July 7th.

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Jim Pawlicki and Bill Watson had three Greater Scaup along the Niagara River on July 13th and 14th. The adult male was found about a mile upstream from the falls, the immature male and female were found about two miles downstream. Watson describes typical Greater Scaup features "All three birds were distinguished [by] their broad rounded heads that lacked a hind notch, thicker necks than a Lesser Scaup, and larger broader spatulate bills." The first record of a midsummer Greater Scaup was a drake on July 6, 1939, in the Niagara Gorge (Beardslee and Mitchell 1965). The next July sighting in 1966, when 3-4 Greater Scaup spent the month at Grand Point in Dunn, Ontario. One or two birds have been sighted sporadically throughout the area, particularly in the 1990's. This is the first July record since 1999.

Pine Siskins were reported in a few areas this month, not unexpectedly after the large numbers of them present this past winter and spring. Doug Beattie saw one in his yard with Tad Gerace, in Bethany, NY. on the 4th of July. Willie D'Anna and Betsy Potter spotted one on July 18, at a friend's Niger thistle feeder in Wilson, NY. It "... was slightly smaller and had a thinner bill than the goldfinches" it was feeding with; it also displayed substantial streaking.

pouch was torn, but could have happened during the skinning process."

There have been three previous Brown Pelican records. The first record was June 20, 1950, seen by Ira Lyon near the foot of Sheridan Drive on the Niagara River (Beardslee and Mitchell 1965). It was seen for the next few days, possibly through June 26. Then, on July 2, 1950, a Brown Pelican was found near the mouth of Cattaraugus Creek by William Allair. This is believed to be the same pelican spotted on the river a few days earlier. The next sighting occurred on September 25th, 1971 at Waverly Beach, Ontario by Benhams, Kraetzes and Brownstein, et al. The third sighting was by multiple observers July 9 & 10, 1992 at LaSalle Park, with verification reports submitted by Brock, Watson, Schopp, and D'Anna.

Connie Adams reported a nest in a pine tree at Fort Niagara State Park on July 5th. Both parents were actively feeding, at least 3 nestlings. There have been reports of other nests, this can be expected during an irruption year.

Out of season gulls for July included a Lesser Black-backed Gull, a Little Gull, and a possible Iceland Gull. The Lesser Black-backed Gull was found on July 7th in Dunkirk harbor in first summer alternate plumage. Bill Watson and Jim Pawlicki spotted it sleeping and resting among Herring and Ring-billed Gulls on the docks west of the main pier. Both described it as slightly smaller, and noticeably slimmer, with a smaller head and bill than the Herring Gulls. Other noted differences include the darker mantle, the greater contrast between the mantle and lighter head and neck, and lighter under parts.

This is the second Lesser Black-backed Gull on record for July. The only other sighting was by Watson and Pawlicki on July 24, 2004, in Wilson, Niagara County.

Another first-alternate, a Little Gull was found on July 15th by (again!) Jim Pawlicki and Bill Watson, flying up the Niagara River from Lake Ontario. Appearing slightly smaller than the surrounding Bonaparte's, with short, rounded wings and a squared tail. The dark "M" pattern of a first-alternate were visible on the dorsal wings, as were the light under wings. "Head coloration appeared whitish with a fairly extensive black cap/partial hood." (Pawlicki) There have been 13 sightings of Little Gulls in July since 1965, most recently on July 20th and 22nd, 2004 at Rock Pt. PP by Pawlicki and Harris.

A brief mention should be made about a possible Iceland Gull flying north along the shoreline of Woodlawn Beach State Park on July 12th, seen by Jim Pawlicki and Dave Wheeler. It was seen briefly with the evening sun behind it. A white-winged gull was among smaller Ring-billed and similarly sized Herring Gulls. Pawlicki notes "its HEGU-like structure with fairly long, wide-based wings, and proportionately small head/bill region immediately recalled Iceland Gull over Glaucous Gull, which should have shown proportionately shorter wings and a more front-heavy look." Favoring the Iceland, Wheeler notes a "pale gray mantle and at least some gray in the upper wing coverlets," and "seemingly pure white primaries." Another very rare summer gull, there have been two July sightings, one in 1983, and one in 1990, both by Mosher at Dunkirk Harbor. The observers are commended for taking the time to verify their unusual sighting and taking a conservative approach to identification.

Thank you to Dave Suggs and Mike Morgante.

DiTommaso, D., Suggs, D., et al, B.O.S. Noteworthy Records Database. 1964-

Beardslee, C. S. and Mitchell, H. D. 1965, Birds of the Niagara Frontier, Bulletin of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences (Buffalo Museum of Science) Volume 22.

Groth, J., in Bulls Birds of New York State. 1998. E. Levine, Ed. Comstock Publishing Assoc.

Geneseebirds <http://mail.geneseo.edu/mailman/private/geneseebirds-l/2008-July/thread.html>

National Weather Service: <http://www.weather.gov/climate/>

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

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(f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicates nest(s). (yg) Indicates young.

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<u>Species</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Gadwall	12	3	Batavia WWTP	Watson et al
"	13	2	Niagara Falls	Pawlicki
American Wigeon	12	2	Batavia WWTP	Beattie et al
Green-winged Teal	12	2	Batavia WWTP	Watson et al
Greater Scaup	<u>13;14</u>	1;3	Niagara Falls	Pawlicki; Pawlicki, Watson
Long-tailed Duck	26	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson et al (BOS)
Common Merganser	14	2	Niagara Falls	Pawlicki, Watson
"	16, 24	43, 18	Sheridan	Neveu
"	21, 26	18, 59	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson et al
Ruddy Duck	12	11	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Beattie et al
Common Loon	6	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Jacklin
"	9	1	Allegany SP	DeSha et al
Pied-billed Grebe	13	1	Niagara Falls	Pawlicki
* <u>Brown Pelican</u>	7	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Lazarczyk et al
"	7	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson, Pawlicki
"	14	1 dead	Wide Beach, Brant	Schultz
D.-crested Cormorant	7	1200	Mohawk I. (Ont)	Watson
"	12	45	Batavia WWTP	Beattie et al
"	12, 24	581, 935	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson et al
Great Egret	5 - 31	2	Tonawanda	Hess
"	6, 20	89, 96	Motor I.	Watson
"	25	87	Tonawanda WMA	Watson, Gordon
"	25	1	Pomfret	Berry
Blk.-cr. Night Heron	2; 25	2; 7	Tonawanda WMA	Beattie; Watson, Gordon
"	12	2	Batavia WWTP	Watson et al
Osprey	1 - 4	3 n & yg	Allegany SP	Hess
"	6	1	Mouth of Catt. Creek	Neveu
"	7	2 n & 1 yg	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	19	2	Oak Orchard WMA	Beattie et al
"	25	3 ad & 3 yg	Tonawanda WMA	Watson, Gordon
Bald Eagle	2	1 juv	Mouth of Silver Creek	Neveu
"	2	1 juv	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	4	2	Alexander	Beattie, Gerace
"	4	1 ad&1 juv	Sheridan	Neveu
"	12	1	Allegany Indian Res.	Yoerg, Henderson
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4	1	Alfred	Brooks
Peregrine Falcon	2;10	2 imm; 2	Buffalo	Yoerg, Henderson; Yoerg
"	11	1	<u>Egbertsville</u>	White
Virginia Rail	26	1	Cheney's Rd Swamp	Berry

<u>Species</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Sora	26	1	Cheney's Rd Swamp	Berry
Semipalmated Plover	10F	1	Times Beach NP	Pawlicki
"	21	2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
Greater Yellowlegs	7F	1	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson
"	12	3	Batavia WWTP	Beattie et al
Lesser Yellowlegs	7F	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
"	12	6	Batavia WWTP	Beattie et al
"	21	64	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson
"	26	45	Elba	Beattie, Dart
Solitary Sandpiper	25F	1	Yates	D'Anna, Potter
"	25F	1	Alexander	Dart
"	26	2	Villanova	Yoerg, Henderson
Upland Sandpiper	25	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Wheeler
"	29, 31	1, 3 @night	Buffalo	Yoerg
Ruddy Turnstone	30	1	Mouth of Catt. Creek	Neveu
* Sanderling	17F	2	Woodlawn Beach SP	Pawlicki
"	21, 26	17, 17	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson et al
"	25	1	Olcott Beach	D'Anna, Potter
"	26	3	Mouth of Catt. Creek	Neveu
Semipalm. Sandpiper	7F	1	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson
"	21, 26	95, 50	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson et al
"	25 - 30	4 - 15	Wilson	D'Anna et al
"	26	11	Elba	Beattie, Dart
Least Sandpiper	7F, 21	8, 30	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson et al
"	15	2	Dayton	Neveu
"	16	6	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	25 - 30	15 - 20	Wilson	D'Anna et al
Pectoral Sandpiper	25F - 30	4 - 1	Wilson	D'Anna et al
"	26	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Yoerg, Henderson
* Stilt Sandpiper	25F, 26	1, 2	Wilson	D'Anna, Wheeler
"	26	1	Elba	Beattie, Dart
Short-b. Dowitcher	7F, 21	3, 8	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson et al
"	25 - 30	8 - 5	Wilson	D'Anna et al
Wilson's Snipe	30	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Little Gull	<u>14</u>	1	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki, Watson
Bonaparte's Gull	14	18	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki, Watson
Lesser Black-b. Gull	<u>7</u>	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Watson
Common Tern	9	100	Fort Erie (Ont)	Jacklin
"	13	210	Erie Basin Marina	Watson
"	14	120	Fort Niagara SP	Watson
Black Tern	2; 25	8; 7	Tonawanda WMA	Beattie, Dart; Watson
"	25	3	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Common Nighthawk	1 - 30	2 - 3	Buffalo	Yoerg
Red-headed Wdpkr.	1 - 23	1 - 2	Eggertsville (f)	White
"	19	2	Oak Orchard WMA	Beattie, Hartwig
"	20	1	Orchard Park (f)	Zebehazy
"	25	1	Pt. Gratiot	Berry
"	26	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson et al (BOS)
Acadian Flycatcher	1 - 4	5	Allegany SP	Hess
"	4	1	Carroll	Berry
"	26	2	Chestnut Ridge Pk	Morgante
Common Raven	1	1	Allegany SP	Hess
"	4	1	Carroll	Berry
"	6, 13	2, 2	Andover	Brooks

<u>Species</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Horned Lark	4	2	Bethany	Beattie, Gerace
"	21; 26	9; 14	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson; Happ, Watson
Purple Martin	4	8	Bethany	Beattie, Gerace
"	21	20	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
"	24	15	Evans	Neveu
"	25	4	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
N. Rough-w. Swallow	12	<u>270</u>	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Beattie
Cliff Swallow	4	11	Alexander	Beattie, Gerace
"	4	3	Bird I. Pier	Yoerg, Henderson
"	6	7	Andover	Brooks
"	6	62 & 143 n	Tonawanda I.	Watson
Carolina Wren	4	1	Alexander	Beattie, Gerace
"	7, 21	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson et al
"	30	1	Mouth of Catt. Creek	Neveu
Winter Wren	1 - 4	1	Allegany SP	Hess
"	11, 14	1, 1	Alfred	Brooks
"	12	1	Allegany Indian Res.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	15; 26	2; 1	Arkwright	Neveu; Yoerg et al
Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	1	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	26	1	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
Swainson's Thrush	3	1	Allegany SP	Hess
Nashville Warbler	11	1	Alfred	Brooks
Northern Parula	3	1	Allegany SP	Hess
Yellow Warbler	28F	2	Tonawanda	Chilton
Pine Warbler	15	1	Arkwright	Neveu
"	25	1	Pomfret	Berry
Prairie Warbler	15,20,28	1, 1, 1	Alfred	Brooks
Black-&-white Warb.	12	2	Allegany Indian Res.	Yoerg, Henderson
La. Waterthrush	1 - 4	3	Allegany SP	Hess
"	12	2	Allegany Indian Res.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	12	2	Chestnut Ridge Park	Pawlicki, Wheeler
Grasshopper Sparrow	7	1	Port Colborne (Ont)	Watson
White-thr. Sparrow	11	7	Alfred	Brooks
"	14	5	Ward	Brooks
Bobolink	7	45	Alfred	Brooks
"	12	20	Batavia	Watson
Orchard Oriole	22 - 29	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
Pine Siskin	<u>4</u>	1	Bethany	Gerace
"	<u>5</u>	2 & nest	Fort Niagara SP	Adams
"	<u>8</u>	5	Varysburg	T&L Somerville
"	<u>18</u>	1	Wilson (f)	D'Anna, Potter

Species, subspecies, and named hybrids previously recorded this year: 266

Species, subspecies, and named hybrids recorded this month: 003

Total for the year 2009: 269

Statisticians' Note I: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision.

Statisticians' Note II: We are asking members of the BOS and any other birders who send in reports to the BOS to advise us as soon as they can of any possible errors in regard to records published in the Prothonotary, particularly in the Noteworthy Records so that we can make any necessary changes as soon as appropriate.

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Buffalo Museum of Science
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Buffalo, NY 14211-1293

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September – October Calendar

BOS website

<http://www.bosbirding.org/>



Buffalo-Niagara Region
Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

Sept. 9: BOS Meeting. Tifft Nature Preserve. Due to the Body Worlds exhibit at the Buffalo Museum of Science, the September 9 meeting will be held at Tifft Nature Preserve on Fuhrmann Boulevard. Bring along your favorite stories, disks, or slides on a carousel to share with the other members. Also Bol Maucelli from Rochester will give a short presentation on the NYSOA Young Birders group.

Sept. 12: Saturday. Tifft Nature Preserve and Times Beach for warblers and shorebirds. Leader: Chris Newton (Cnewton2@roadrunner.com 716-225-8055). Meet at 8:00 AM in the Tifft N. P. parking lot. This is a half-day trip.

Sept. 17-20: Midwest Birding Symposium in Lakeside, Ohio. See www.birdwatchersdigest.com/mwb/main.php for information.

Sept. 26: Saturday. The 62nd Annual Meeting of the New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA) will be held at the Montezuma Audubon Center. The registration form is on the NYSOA web site: <http://www.nybirds.org>. The registration deadline is September 5, 2009.

Oct. 11, Sunday: BOS Annual October Count. All BOS members are asked to participate. It's always a great count, so if you can join us please contact: Mike Hamilton at 881-6709 or mhsr@wzrd.com.

Oct. 14: BOS Anniversary Dinner will be held at Salvatore's Italian Garden on 6461 Transit Road in Depew at 6:30PM (see registration form sent with this issue). World renowned owl expert and founder of the Owl Foundation in Ontario, Canada, Dr. Kay McKeever will be our much honored and admired keynote speaker.

Oct. 24: Saturday not Sunday. Lake Ontario Plain Field Trip for fall migrants. Leader: Willie D'Anna (751-3637 or dannapotter@roadrunner.com). Meet at 8 a.m. at Tops Market in Wright's Corners. This is on the east side of Route 78 at Route 104.

The PROTHONOTARY

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THE MONTH: September

Tim Baird

September rarely disappoints birders, and a look at September 2009 Noteworthy Records confirms that disappointment was not in the cards. First, the weather was congenial for birds and birders alike. McLaughlin's summary from the National Weather Service says it best, "September featured three solid weeks of near perfect late summer weather with mainly sunny skies, warm days and cool nights right on through the 20th. The first three weekends, including the holiday Labor Day weekend, were all perfect."

However, weather perfection is a personal taste, and too much of a good thing can be annoying. September 2009 added a late spurt of rainfall to spice things up a bit. In fact, intense bands of lake effect rainfall pounded metropolitan Buffalo and its immediate surroundings on the 28th as cold air coming with the passage of a cold front, picked up ample moisture and energy from the warm water of Lake Erie. Buffalo's 3.55 inches of rain was the greatest in a single day since June 1987, and the 5th highest daily rainfall on record. Similar to lake effect snow bands, this deluge was quite localized and much of the region escaped torrential rain and the resultant flooding. Lake Erie experienced a seiche resulting in a 5 foot rise in just a few hours.

Despite the rainy weather late in the month bringing September's total precipitation to 5.65 inches, nearly two inches above average, pleasant weather prevailed as mentioned above. Only 11 days were reported as cloudy. Clear skies and plenty of sun provided warm days followed by cool nights. The mean temperature was 62.4° F only 0.9° F above normal. September 30th ended the month with a maximum temperature of only 50° F. The water temperature of Lake Erie ended at 65° F, one degree above normal.

There were several observations of unexpected species for western New York. Watson observed a Barnacle Goose

down leg band showing the number 17 leading to the conclusion that it was a likely escape. Watson followed up the observation with a call to Gooseneck Hill Wildlife Sanctuary, and they reported their lone Barnacle Goose had escaped during a flooding episode. Gooseneck also informed Watson that the escapee's band had been placed on upside down.

A very exciting find, was a juvenile plumaged White Ibis observed, photographed (below), and verified by several birders at the Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area. First observed by Pearce on the 20th, the White Ibis was roosting with Great Egrets (Dart and Beattie estimated over 80 egrets with the ibis on the 25th). The last confirmation of this bird in September came from Pawlicki on the 27th. Several birders who saw the ibis included photographs showing the bird perched and in flight. The photos clearly show an ibis profile and the white ventral plumage that distinguishes this species from other North American ibises. This bird is the second verified occurrence for White Ibis in B.O.S. records. Previously listed only as "hypothetical" by Beardslee and Mitchell (1965), White Ibis was first verified in the region when a single bird was documented in North Collins in November of 1990.

Visiting New York from west of the Mississippi, American Avocets made an appearance at Beaver Island State Park on September 27th. First observed by Sharon, they



Juvenile White Ibis (left) and Philadelphia Vireo (right) photographed by Mark Pearce & Tim Baird respectively at Tonawanda WMA and Allegany State Park on September 20th.

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nestled in with a resting flock of Canada Geese at Olcott on the 24th. The bird sported an upside

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were subsequently seen by others and verified with reports from Lazarczyk and Watson, including photographs of all five of the avocets submitted with their verification reports. Perhaps these birds were pushed east ahead of the approaching cold front that barreled in on the 28th. On the 28th, Goetz reported two American Avocets seen by observers in Dunkirk, though details of this sighting were not provided. There are few early records for American Avocet. Beardslee and Mitchell account early observations as "accidental" along with an observation of an individual observed near Erie Beach, Ontario in August 1964. Since Beardslee and Mitchell's publication in 1965, this species has been a fairly regular visitor to western New York, especially in this decade. The five individuals at Beaver Island State Park this year match the record number

for a sighting with five birds also observed at Times Beach in August of 1972 and Dunkirk in July of 2008.

A real challenge for the statisticians came with a report of a Ferruginous Hawk sighted in Dunkirk with verification reports coming from Sanden and Clarke. Sanden's observations occurred on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th, with Clarke's observation occurring on the 5th at the same location as Sanden's reports. Both observers' verification reports pointed to this species and detailed the feathered legs, large size, and some distinctive plumage characteristics; however, some other features were not observed or described. The statisticians' decision to accept the report as a probable Ferruginous Hawk is a conservative decision. For such a rare species, it would be ideal to have more observers and photographs. Photographs were not taken, and they would have added greatly to verifying a species that is rarely observed in the east and is not currently on the *Checklist of the Birds of New York State*. A report of a Ferruginous Hawk observed at the Ripley Hawk Watch on April 11, 2002 was accepted for the B.O.S. noteworthy records, but not accepted by the New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC) for inclusion on the state's official checklist of birds.

Western Sandpiper and Long-billed Dowitcher are two shorebird species that can be challenging to separate from similarly species. The former was verified as a single bird observed on the 10th at Dunkirk by Wheeler. Among other characteristics, he noted the strong reddish highlights on the dorsal surface of the bird and a drooping end to the bill. The Long-billed Dowitcher verifications came from Watson and D'Anna for birds observed at the Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area. Watson's observation included two birds on the 25th. D'Anna's observation was of three birds on the 26th. Both observers noted among other characteristics the importance of shape in separating this species from the similar looking Short-billed Dowitcher. Photographs taken by D'Anna clearly illustrate the hump-backed appearance of the birds while feeding (see last page).

The Noteworthy Records show that the latter part of September hosted significant populations of some species as indicated by observations in the region of significant numbers of Double-crested Cormorants, Great Egrets, Bonaparte's Gulls, Tree Swallows, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Chipping Sparrows, Common Grackles, and Brown-headed Cowbirds. In reporting a flock of 250 cowbirds on the 22nd, Hess noted the "impressive number" of this species compared with smaller flocks over 24 years of his observations in the Town of Tonawanda.

Listening to night migrating thrushes around mid-month, Hess had good counts for Veerys and Swainson's Thrushes. Observers with an ear for night migrating thrushes help us to better determine the occurrence of these species at this season. Thrushes are quiet and tend to be well concealed when stopping on migration. Sight records certainly do not reflect their true abundance. Most reports for the increasingly rare Common Nighthawk came from the first couple weeks in September including a maximum of 21 reported by Salembier on the 3rd in Williamsville.

A favorite group for many bird watchers, our warblers challenge identification skills in September because they are quiet, they occur outside their normal ranges and habitats, they mix with other species, the young and old differ in appearance, and the adults play Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde with their bright spring plumages. September's Noteworthy Records include a long list of warbler species attesting to both the birds' abundance and the attention they generate from birders. The 50 Yellow-rumped Warblers counted in Orchard Park on September 30th by the Zebehazy's might be a result of the dramatic change in weather at month's end reinvigorating their southerly migration.

September opens the door to migrating sparrows. Salembier's Clay-colored Sparrow in Williamsville at the beginning of the month hints at a continued presence as a breeding bird in this region. White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows appeared this month to lead the sparrow march into October. Finally, our only Pine Siskin was a bird photographed at Andrle's feeder in Eden on the 3rd. Could this bird have been lingering following a summer presence of siskins or an early prediction for another spectacular finch season? We can enjoy searching for an answer in the months ahead. (continued on back page)

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Eighth Edition - Revised 2007) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration.

(f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicates nest(s). (yg) Indicates young.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BCh314159@aol.com.

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Wood Duck	19	45	Orchard Park	Zebehazys
Northern Shoveler	3	14	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	14	2	Woodlawn Beach SP	Pawlicki
Greater Scaup	29	5	Bird I. Pier	Watson
Lesser Scaup	3	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	11	1	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg
"	29	1	Bird I. Pier	Watson
Surf Scoter	<u>5F</u>	2	Fort Niagara SP	Watson, D'Anna et al
"	29	3	Bird I. Pier	Watson
White-winged Scoter	5	5	Fort Niagara SP	Watson, Wheeler et al
Long-tailed Duck	11	2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg
"	29	1	Bird I. Pier	Watson
Bufflehead	3; 27	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Yoerg
Common Merganser	11	53	Dunkirk	Watson
"	19	47	Sheridan	Neveu
Ruddy Duck	3	20	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Common Loon	24	7	Olcott	Watson
Pied-billed Grebe	25	30	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Horned Grebe	29F	1	Bird I. Pier	Watson
Eared Grebe	3; 27	2; 4	Batavia WWTP	Watson et al; Yoerg et al
D.-crested Cormorant	3	863	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	28	<u>1625</u>	Buffalo	Watson
Great Egret	1	2	Dayton	Neveu
"	1 - 30	1 - 2	Tonawanda	Hess
"	5, 7	1	Newfane	D'Anna, Potter
"	10, 21	44, 29	Strawberry I.	Watson
"	11	8	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg
"	12; 29	16; 3	Fort Erie (Ont)	Morgante; Watson
"	25	<u>102</u>	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Blk.-cr. Night-Heron	25	11	Tonawanda WMA	Salembier et al
* <u>White Ibis</u>	20	1 juv	Tonawanda WMA	Pearce
"	24, 25	1 juv	Tonawanda WMA	Wheeler et al
"	25, 26	1 juv	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna
"	25	1 juv	Tonawanda WMA	Watson, Lazarczyk et al
"	27	1 juv	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki
Osprey	4	1	Mouth of Catt. Creek	Neveu
"	8, 14, 19	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	11	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	23	1	Tifft NP	Watson

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	25	1	Amherst	Pawlicki
Bald Eagle	3, 5, 12	4 juv	Sheridan	Neveu
"	4	1 ad	Salamanca	Baird
"	8	2	Colden	J Landau
"	11	2 imm	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
"	11	1	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg
"	11	1 ad, 2 juv	Mouth of Silver Creek	Neveu
Red-shouldered Hawk	12	1	Busti	Berry
Broad-winged Hawk	1	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	1	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	24	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Merlin	19	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Wheeler
Peregrine Falcon	5	1	Tonawanda	Hess
"	11	1 imm	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg
"	20	1 imm	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg
"	26	1	East Aurora	M Zebehazy
Black-bellied Plover	11	2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg
"	11	7	Wainfleet (Ont)	Yoerg
"	11	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Goetz, Neveu
"	28	1	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki, Wheeler
Amer. Golden-Plover	12	25	Alabama	Wheeler
* <u>American Avocet</u>	27	5	Beaver I. SP	Watson, Lazarczyk et al
Solitary Sandpiper	3	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	27	1	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
* Hudsonian Godwit	20F	1 juv	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg et al
Ruddy Turnstone	11; 20	3; 1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg; Yoerg et al
"	11; 12	1; 2	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu; Goetz
* Red Knot	13F; 20	1 juv; 2 juv	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg; Yoerg et al
"	20	1 juv	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Sanderling	7; 11	20; 7	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki; Neveu
"	11	2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg
"	29	7	Woodlawn Beach SP	Watson
<u>Western Sandpiper</u>	10	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Wheeler et al
Least Sandpiper	3	32	Elba	Watson
White-r. Sandpiper	13	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
Baird's Sandpiper	11	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Goetz, Lazarczyk et al
"	13	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
"	13	3	Pt. Abino (Ont)	Yoerg
Pectoral Sandpiper	3	1	Elba	Watson
"	13	2	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
"	20	4	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	25; 27	2; 1	Tonawanda WMA	Watson; Yoerg et al
Stilt Sandpiper	20	1	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	25; 27	1; 1 juv	Tonawanda WMA	Watson et al; Yoerg et al
* <u>Long-b. Dowitcher</u>	25	2	Tonawanda WMA	Watson et al
"	26	3	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna
Wilson's Snipe	27	4	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
American Woodcock	23	1	Tifft NP	Watson
* Red-neck. Phalarope	12F	1	Fort Niagara SP	Wheeler
* Parasitic Jaeger	5F	2; 1 juv	Fort Niagara SP	Wheeler; D'Anna
"	12	1	Fort Niagara SP	Wheeler
"	28	1	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
"	28	1	Hamburg Town Park	Wheeler
"	29	1 juv	Wilson	D'Anna

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Little Gull	22	4	Niagara Falls	Pawlicki
Bonaparte's Gull	24	300	Niagara Falls	Pawlicki
"	29	20	Wilson	D'Anna
Lesser Black-b. Gull	24	1	Niagara Falls	Pawlicki
* Black-leg. Kittiwake	<u>5, 6</u>	2 juv	Fort Niagara SP	Wheeler et al
"	<u>5</u>	2 juv	Fort Niagara SP	Watson, D'Anna et al
"	<u>7</u>	2 juv	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki
Caspian Tern	12	3	Buffalo Harbor	Morgante
Common Tern	5	30	Fort Niagara SP	Watson
"	28	1	Buffalo Harbor	Wheeler
Forster's Tern	11	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Black Tern	5	1	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna
Black-billed Cuckoo	4	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
"	26	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	30L	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Common Nighthawk	1 - 7	7 - 3	Salamanca	Baird
"	3, 6, 17	21, 14, 3	Williamsville	Salembier
"	5; 6	1; 1	Orchard Park	Morgante; Zebehazys
"	5	12	Grand I.	Sharon
"	5 - 20	1 - 8	Tonawanda	Hess
"	8	2	Fredonia	Goetz
"	9	1	Alexander	Dart
"	13	3	Forest Lawn Cem.	Hess
"	20	5	Wainfleet (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Red-headed Wdpkr.	1	2 ad, 1 imm	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	13	2	Orchard Park	Zebehazys
	30	3	Williamsville	Salembier
Yellow-b. Flycatcher	3	1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki
"	11	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	19	1	Buffalo	Yoerg
Willow Flycatcher	6L	1	Busti	Berry
Least Flycatcher	9	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	15	1	Wilson	Potter
Gr. Cr. Flycatcher	11	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Eastern Kingbird	5L	1	Newfane	D'Anna
Blue-headed Vireo	20F	1	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Potter
"	24	1	Olcott	Watson
Warbling Vireo	9	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	24L	1	Wilson	Potter
Philadelphia Vireo	6	1	Orchard Park	Zebehazys
"	7, 26	1, 1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	12	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	20	1	Golden Hill SP	Potter, D'Anna
"	20, 25	2, 1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	24	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Common Raven	9	1	Arcade	Neveu
"	10	3	Andover	Brooks
Purple Martin	14	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Tree Swallow	26, 27	85	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki
Bank Swallow	6	1	Busti	Berry
"	27	4	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki
Cliff Swallow	<u>26L</u>	1	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki, D'Anna
Red-br. Nuthatch	13, 22	1, 1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	15	1	Silver Creek	Neveu
Brown Creeper	13F	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Hess

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Carolina Wren	3	1	Mouth of Catt. Creek	Neveu
"	12, 15	1	Silver Creek	Neveu
Marsh Wren	27	1	Tonawanda WMA	Cohen, Broderick
Winter Wren	9	2	Ward	Brooks
"	9F	1	Wilson	Potter
Golden-cr. Kinglet	24F	5	Olcott	Watson
"	26	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	12F	2	Tifft NP	Watson et al (BOS)
"	20	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	2	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Veery	2	3	Alfred	Brooks
"	12,13,15	55, 9, 13	Tonawanda (night)	Hess
"	24	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Gray-cheeked Thrush	13F, 15	1, 2	Tonawanda (night)	Hess
"	13F, 24	1, 1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	15	1	Wilson	Potter
"	20	2	Allegany SP	Baird
"	24	1	Olcott	Watson
Swainson's Thrush	5	2	Allegany SP	Baird
"	12F	2	Tifft NP	Watson et al (BOS)
"	12F, 15	29, 31	Tonawanda (night)	Hess
"	24	6	Williamsville	Salembier
Hermit Thrush	24F	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Brown Thrasher	12	1	Williamsville	Salembier
American Pipit	11F	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu et al
"	27	1	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
Blue-winged Warbler	5L	1	Allegany SP	Baird
Tennessee Warbler	3, 26	1, 1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	20	1	Allegany SP	Baird
Orange-cr. Warbler	12F	1	Tifft NP	Watson
	24; 29	1; 1	Wilson	D'Anna; Potter
Northern Parula	6F, 16	1, 2	Williamsville	Salembier
"	12	2	Tifft NP	Watson
"	20	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Yellow Warbler	5	1	Wilson	Potter
"	11L	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Chestnut-s. Warbler	9, 24	1, 3	Williamsville	Salembier
"	12	4	Tifft NP	Newton et al (BOS)
Magnolia Warbler	12	5	Tifft NP	Newton et al (BOS)
Cape May Warbler	9F,11,15	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	25	2	Allegany SP	Baird
Bl.-thr. Blue Warbler	5, 9, 10	1, 2, 1	Orchard Park	Zebehazys
"	12	2	Tifft NP	Watson
"	24	1	Olcott	Watson
Yellow-r. Warbler	25	2	Tonawanda WMA	Dart, Beattie
"	30	50	Orchard Park	Zebehazys
Bl.-thr. Green Warb.	20	10	Allegany SP	Baird
Pine Warbler	10	3	Bethany	Beattie
Palm Warbler	13F	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Wheeler, D'Anna
"	13F	1	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
"	16	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Bay-breasted Warbler	4	1	Wilson	Potter
"	6, 30	1, 1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	12	3	Tifft NP	Watson et al (BOS)

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
“	21	2	Orchard Park	M Zebehazy
Blackpoll Warbler	6, 30	1, 1	Williamsville	Salembier
“	14	1	Salamanca	Baird
“	18	1	Orchard Park	Zebehazys
“	23	1	Tifft NP	Watson
Ovenbird	26	1	Wilson	Potter, D’Anna
“	30	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Northern Waterthrush	7F - 10	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Mourning Warbler	5L	1	Allegany SP	Baird
Wilson's Warbler	5	2	Wilson	Potter
“	5 - 10	1	Williamsville	Salembier
“	15	2	Amherst	Pawlicki
Canada Warbler	5	1	Wilson	Potter
Chipping Sparrow	11	17	Williamsville	Salembier
“	27	30	Bethany	Beattie
Clay-col. Sparrow	<u>11</u>	1	<u>Williamsville</u>	Salembier
Lincoln's Sparrow	15F	4	Amherst	Pawlicki
“	20	1	Golden Hill SP	Potter
White-thr. Sparrow	6F	1	Williamsville	Salembier
“	15	2	Wilson	Potter
White-cr. Sparrow	24F	1	Wilson	Potter, D’Anna
“	29	4	Amherst	Pawlicki
Rose-br. Grosbeak	14, 24	1, 1	Williamsville	Salembier
“	15	1	Amherst	Pawlicki
“	28	1 m	East Pembroke (f)	Seamans
Rusty Blackbird	25F	2	Tonawanda WMA	D’Anna et al
Common Grackle	26	200	Williamsville	Salembier
Brown-head. Cowbird	22; 23	250; 208	Tonawanda	Hess; Watson
Baltimore Oriole	7L	1	Grand I. (f)	Lazarczyk
Purple Finch	15	2	Amherst	Pawlicki
Pine Siskin	<u>3</u>	1	Eden (f)	Andrle

Species, subspecies, and named hybrids previously recorded this year: **275**

Species, subspecies, and named hybrids recorded this month: **008**

Total for the year 2009: **283**

Statisticians’ Note I: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision.

Statisticians’ Note II: We are asking members of the BOS and any other birders who send in reports to the BOS to advise us as soon as they can of any possible errors in regard to records published in the Prothonotary, particularly in the Noteworthy Records so that we can make any necessary changes as soon as appropriate.

Statisticians’ Note III: Bill Watson observed an upside down leg band (#17) on the Barnacle Goose he found with a resting flock of Canada Geese at Olcott. Watson contacted Gooseneck Hill Wildlife Sanctuary (West Valley, New York), and they reported their lone Barnacle Goose had escaped during the devastating flooding episode in August. Given the high probability of it being an escaped bird from a private collection, the verification report is accepted as ‘likely escapee’. Accepted as Escapee (Note III):

Barnacle Goose	24	1	Olcott	Watson
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Statisticians’ Note IV: Two verification reports were received for a reported juvenile Ferruginous Hawk in Dunkirk in early September. Both reports pointed to this species and detailed several identification field marks; however, some other features were not observed or described. The statisticians’ decision to accept the report as a probable Ferruginous Hawk is a conservative decision, partially based on the rarity of this species, which is not currently on the official *Checklist of the Birds of New York State*. A report of a Ferruginous Hawk observed at the Ripley Hawk Watch on April 11, 2002 was accepted for the B.O.S. noteworthy records, but not accepted by the New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC) for inclusion on the state’s official checklist of birds. Birders are encouraged to take photographs, even if distant, when encountering very rare species in the field in order to provide better documentation and increase the chances of having a verification report accepted. Not Accepted, but considered “Probable” (Note IV):

Ferruginous Hawk	3, 4	1 juv	Dunkirk
“	5	1 juv	Dunkirk

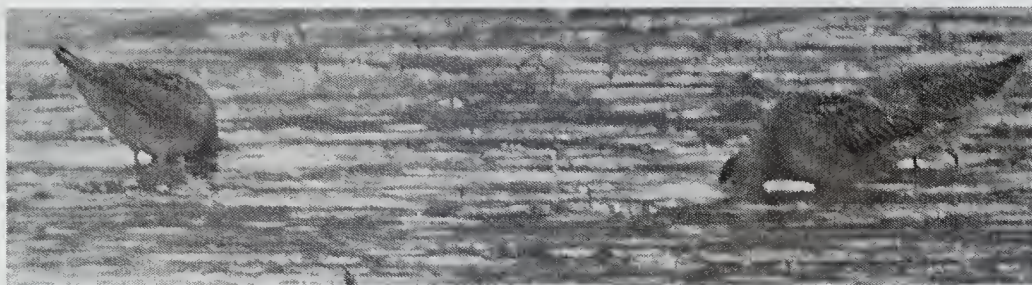
Buffalo Ornithological Society
Buffalo Museum of Science
1020 Humboldt Parkway
Buffalo, NY 14211-1293

Return Service Requested

(continued from the Month, page 90)

Gerry Rising and Mike Morgante reviewed and made helpful comments on a draft of this article. David Suggs provided assistance with historical information from the B.O.S. data base. I appreciate their efforts.

Beardslee, C.S. and H.D. Mitchell, 1965. Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region. *Bull. of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences* 22. 1-478.



Feeding Long-billed Dowitchers photographed by Willie D'Anna at Tonawanda WMA on September 25th. Note the hump-backed appearance of this species.



Black-legged Kittiwake photographed by Jim Pawlicki at Fort Niagara State Park on September 7th.

December – January Calendar

- Dec. 9: Buffalo Ornithological Society Annual Holiday Celebration** at 7:00 PM in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Science Museum. Please bring a treat to share and enjoy an evening of birding friendship. Annual Meeting with the election of officers for 2010 and reading of the end of year reports.
- Dec. 19: Saturday. Wilson-Lake Plains CBC.** Compiler: Garner Light (491-4408) or garnerlight@hotmail.com).
- Dec. 19: Saturday. Dunkirk-Fredonia CBC.** Compiler: Joanne Goetz (goetz@netsync.net or 716-673-1627) and Paul Farver (716-792-9042).
- Dec. 20: Sunday. BOS Buffalo, NY Christmas Count.** Compiler: Dave Gordon (390-1429, dgordonphoto@yahoo.com.)
- Dec. 20: Sunday. St. Catharines CBC.** Compiler: Marcie Jacklin (mjacklin@brocku.ca or 905-871-2577).
- Dec. 20: Sunday. Jamestown CBC.** Compiler: Bob Sundell (bird.central@madbbs.com or 716-484-2197).
- Dec. 26: Saturday. Hamburg - East Aurora CBC.** Compiler: Tom O'Donnell (284-5569 or tmodonnell@roadrunner.com)
- Dec. 27: Sunday. Niagara Falls ON-NY CBC.** Contact Willie D'Anna (751-3637 or dannapotter@roadrunner.com) to work on the NY side. Contact Kayo Roy (905-892-4433 or kayoroy@niagara.com) to work on the Canadian side. All payments and data go to the compiler, Kayo Roy, 13 Kinsman Court, Fonthill, Ontario, Canada L0S 1E3.
- Dec. 27: Sunday. 30th annual Oak Orchard Count.** Compiler: Celeste Morien (tcmorien@gmail.com) 585-721-8202
- Jan. 2: Saturday. Beaver Meadow CBC.** Compiler: Paul Fehringer (585-457-3228; fehringer@buffaloaudubon.org).
- Jan. 3: Sunday. Port Colborne CBC:** Compiler: Drew Campbell, 716-668-0759, drew.campbell@gm.com, drewcampbell@roadrunner.com. Meet 8 am at McDonald's Restaurant at Highway 58 and Highway 3, Port Colborne.
- Jan. 13: BOS Meeting. 7:00 PM** Mike Hamilton/Robert DeLeon on the B.O.S. October/May Ct in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Science Museum.
- Jan. 17: Sunday. January Waterfowl Count and mid-winter Bald Eagle Survey.** The count period is Jan. 16-24 with a preferred target date of Jan. 17. Contact Jim Landau at 941-3869 or kjlandau@localnet.com for information.

BOS website

<http://www.bosbirding.org/>



Buffalo-Niagara Region
Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

The PROTHONOTARY

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THE MONTH: August

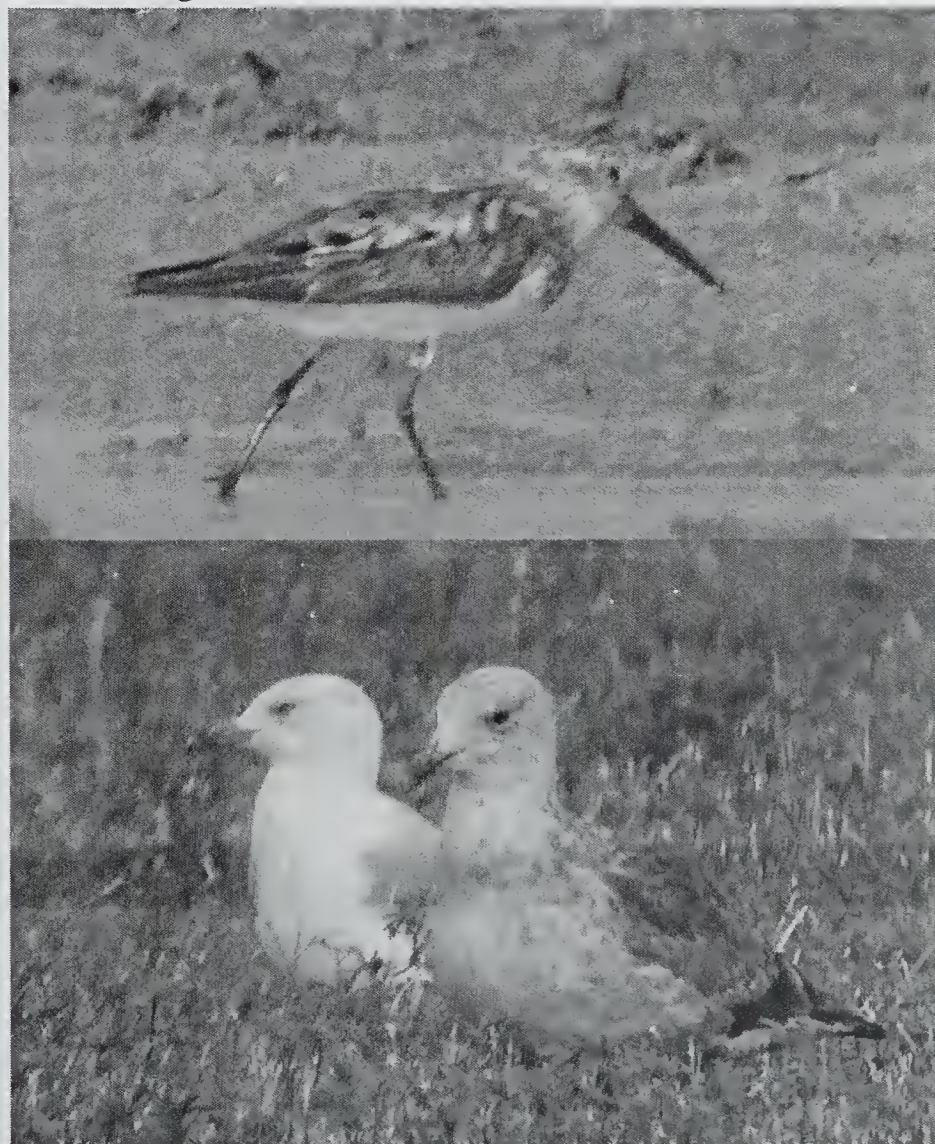
Jim Pawlicki

After a cool June and July, real summer weather returned in August with two solid weeks of heat and humidity occurring mid-month. Spilling over from July, rainfall was heavy with a monthly total of 5.32 inches, 1.45 inches above normal. Nearly half of this fell during a single 24 hour period on the 9-10th when several heavy thunderstorms moved through the region, bringing much unsettled weather that caused disastrous flooding in the Cattaraugus Creek watershed. Overall, August turned out slightly warm and wet with near normal sunshine and a mean average temperature of 70.2 degrees Fahrenheit, 1.1 degrees above average.

Due to the large amount of rainfall, water levels were high in existing ponds and marshes. The flooded fields that resulted provided excellent habitat for large numbers of migrant shorebirds. A flooded field found by Willie D'Anna on Hulbert Rd. in the town of Wilson produced several notable shorebird species including American Golden Plover, Upland Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, and an adult Western Sandpiper on the 15th and 16th. The Western Sandpiper is the 3rd record for Niagara County since 1962, and is one of only a handful found in the region away from the Niagara Peninsula of Ontario. Additionally, large numbers of shorebirds were found at the Elba Mucklands near the eastern end of the region, highlighted by up to 5 Stilt Sandpipers from the 1st-22nd, and a high count of 160 Lesser Yellowlegs on the 1st. In what is becoming a nearly annual occurrence in July and August, but limited in duration, 5 "Western" Willets were observed by Neveu on the Main St. beach in Dunkirk on the 8th. As mentioned by Elizabeth Wells in the August 2008 issue of The Prothonotary, the migrant Willets found in the region (of those identified to subspecies)

exclusively coastal nominate subspecies *semipalmatus*. Recent studies on the Willet subspecies have found several vocal and morphological differences and no overlap in breeding ranges, which suggest the possibility a future split into two full species (see O'Brien et al 2007 for a detailed account of the two Willet subspecies).

Compared to the winter months, late summer is generally considered an unproductive time of year for gulls in the region, although large concentrations of local Ring-billed and Herring Gulls can occur at several lakeshore sites and



Western Sandpiper (above) and Lesser Black-backed Gull (below; bird on right) photographed by Willie D'Anna on Aug 16 in Wilson, NY & Aug 23 in Wilson respectively.

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still hold the possibility of harboring rare late-summer gull species. Dunkirk Harbor seems to be a magnet for Ring-billed Gulls in August, and late in the day on the 21st, I was fortunate to be standing on the crowded Main St. pier alongside Dave Wheeler when he spotted an adult Laughing Gull amongst several hundred Ring-billed Gulls concentrating on the harbor's inner break-wall. Fortunately the bird was cooperative enough to remain another day, and was later seen by several observers, including Bill Watson and Jerry Lazarczyk, both of whom provided additional verification and photos.

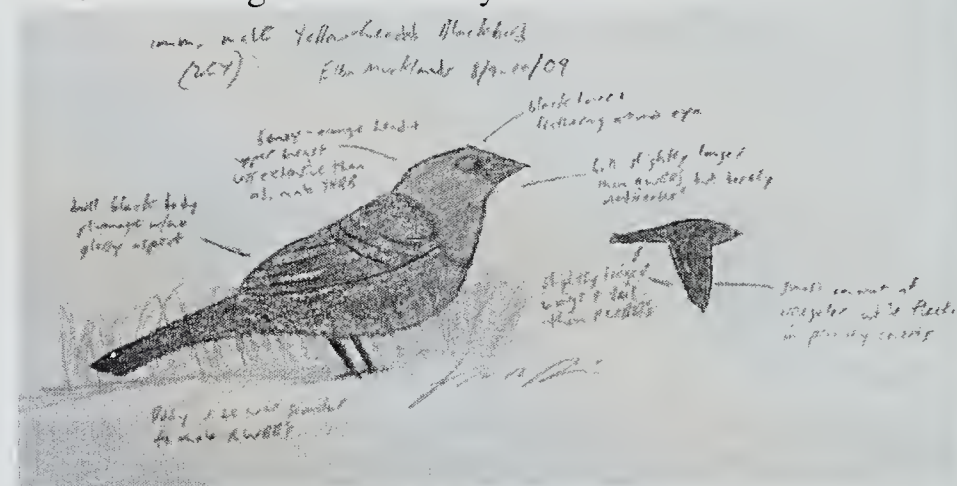
Other unusual gulls seen during the month were 2 Lesser Black-backed Gulls; a first-summer at Hulbert Rd. in Wilson on the 23rd and a third-summer at Dunkirk Harbor on the 24th. Despite having a breeding range almost wholly confined to Eurasia, wandering

immature Lesser Black-backed Gulls in recent years have been found with increasing frequency in the region outside the typical fall and winter dates.

A good push of migrant songbirds occurred during the second half of the month with several migrant warblers, vireos, and flycatchers being observed throughout the region from the 20th to the 30th. Highlights included two Olive-sided Flycatchers, one at Iroquois NWR on the 20th by Bill Watson, and the other at Amherst State Park on the 28th by Richard Salembier. A rare migrant and the region's latest documented Acadian Flycatcher was observed and heard giving its emphatic "pheet" call note at Tifft Nature Preserve in Buffalo on the 24th by myself and Bill Watson. At first glance August 24th may not appear to be a late date, but for a species that is known to start migration early in fall combined with the fact that Western New York lies near the northernmost end of its breeding range does not make it surprising that Acadian Flycatchers are rarely observed in the region after mid-August.

While looking at shorebirds at the Elba Mucklands on the 9th with Celeste and Gwen Morien, we had very brief views of a "mystery" blackbird amongst European Star-

lings and Red-winged Blackbirds that was initially thought to be a Yellow-headed Blackbird. The following day Doug Beattie and I were able to confirm that it was indeed a Yellow-headed Blackbird with Beattie clearly noting "a rusty orange headed blackbird amongst the Red-winged Blackbirds" with "a very thin white line on the top of the wing about where the ends of the greater primary coverts should be located," the latter of which identified the bird as a male in immature plumage. This represents only the 4th record of Yellow-headed Blackbird in the region outside the spring months with the three previous records being on 23 August 1975 at the Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area by Rebovich and Carroll, 10 October 1993 in Wainfleet (Ont.) by Cunningham, and 27 December 2007 at the Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area by the Millers.



Yellow-headed Blackbird sketched by Jim Pawlicki. The bird was first reported on August 9th at Elba Mucklands.

Other highlights from the month included an early Greater Scaup in Wilson on the 30th, several immature Bald Eagles along the Lake Erie shoreline in Chautauqua County, and a Clay-colored Sparrow amongst a large flock of Chipping Sparrows at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Buffalo on the 28th. I would like to thank Bill Watson and Mike Morgante for their comments and suggestions.

DiTommaso, D., Suggs, D., et al, B.O.S. Noteworthy Records Database. 1964-2008

National Weather Service: <http://www.weather.gov/climate/>

O'Brien, M., Crossley, R. and K. Karlson. 2006. The Shorebird Guide. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston.

Announcement: The Buffalo Museum of Science recently published vol. 38 of the Bulletin of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences. This volume includes an article on woodpeckers at Tifft Nature Preserve using data collected by volunteers over the past 26 years. Table of Contents for this volume can be viewed at <http://www.sciencebuff.org/research/publications/bulletin/>. Printed copies of the entire bulletin can be found in the libraries at the Buffalo Museum of Science and Tifft Nature Preserve. Contact David Spiering (dspiering@sciencebuff.org, 716-825-6397) to obtain printed or electronic copies of any article. David Spiering, Ecologist - Buffalo Museum of Science, Tifft Nature Preserve, 1200 Fuhrmann Blvd, Buffalo, NY 14203. Phone: 716-825-6397. <http://www.sciencebuff.org/tifft-nature-preserve/about-tifft>

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Eighth Edition - Revised 2007) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration.

(f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicates nest(s). (yg) Indicates young.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

<u>Species</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Mute Swan	22	2	Pt. Breeze	Watson, Lazarczyk
American Wigeon	8	2	Batavia WWTP	D'Anna, Potter
Am. Black Duck	7	3	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Blue-winged Teal	1	2	Shelby	D'Anna, Potter
"	6F	2	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson
"	8	27	Elba	D'Anna, Potter
Northern Shoveler	7	3	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	14	1	Amherst	Pawlicki
"	22	1	Shelby	Watson
Northern Pintail	8	1	Elba	D'Anna, Potter
Green-winged Teal	1	4	Elba	D'Anna et al
"	6	8	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson
Redhead	6	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Pawlicki, Watson
"	24	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Greater Scaup	<u>30F</u>	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Lesser Scaup	24	1	Wilson	D'Anna
White-winged Scoter	23	3	Wilson	D'Anna
Bufflehead	17	1	Batavia WWTP	Pawlicki et al
Common Merganser	6	33	Morgan's Pt. (Ont)	Watson
"	9, 10	50, 40	Sheridan	Neveu
Red-br. Merganser	6	1	Morgan's Pt. (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
Ruddy Duck	7, 17	16, 15	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Common Loon	30F	7	Wilson	D'Anna
Pied-billed Grebe	1	1	Elba	D'Anna et al
"	3	10	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	16	2	Attica	Beattie, Dart
D.-crested Cormorant	3	933	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	6	700	Mohawk I.	Watson
"	13	4	Almond Dam	Brooks
Great Egret	1 - 31	1 - 2	Tonawanda	Hess
"	2	5	Batavia WWTP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	2; 20	137; 175	Tonawanda WMA	Watson, Gordon; Watson
"	4	75	Motor I.	Watson
"	5	1	Wainfleet (Ont)	B&J Farnan
"	8	1	Alexander	Dart
"	13	1	Wellsville	Brooks
"	23	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	27	13	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg
"	30	1	Dayton	Mitchell

<u>Species</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	30	14	Tifft NP	Morgante
Green Heron	20	20	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Black-cr. Night-Heron	2	8	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Osprey	2; 31	1 ad + n	Tonawanda WMA	Watson; Chilton
"	3, 5	1 yg, 2 ad	Tonawanda	Watson
"	8	1 ad + 2 yg	Allegheny Reservoir	Baird
"	9	1	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
"	20	2ad+1yg	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	22	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	31	1	Mouth of Catt. Creek	Neveu
Bald Eagle	3, 12; 22	2, 2; 2	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu; Watson, Lazarczyk
"	20	2 ad	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	20, 31	6 juv, 5 juv	Sheridan	Neveu
"	30	3 juv	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	2 - 31	1 - 2	Throughout WNY	26 other reports
Broad-winged Hawk	22F	1	Kuckville	Pawlicki
Merlin	10	1	Salamanca	Baird
"	14	1	Amherst	Klick
"	18	1	Wilson	Sweeney
Common Moorhen	6	2 ad + 6 yg	Smithville (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki et al
Black-bellied Plover	6F	5	Fort Erie (Ont)	Pawlicki
"	6F; 9	37; 27	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson et al; Yoerg et al
"	9	31	Wainfleet (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	22	2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Klick et al
"	23	2	Wilson	D'Anna et al
* Amer. Golden-Plover	18F; 22	1; 2	Wilson	Sweeney; D'Anna
"	30	8	Dayton	Mitchell
Killdeer	6	85	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson
Lesser Yellowlegs	1	160	Elba	D'Anna et al
Solitary Sandpiper	1	1	Hamburg	Andrle
"	2; 8; 10	16; 18; 20	Elba	Beattie; D'Anna; Watson
"	4	13	Villanova	Neveu
"	7	5	Sherman	Neveu
* Willet	8	5	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Upland Sandpiper	22 - 29	4 - 1	Wilson	D'Anna
Ruddy Turnstone	6; 9	2; 7	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson; Yoerg et al
"	8	2	Sunset Bay	Pawlicki, Wheeler
"	8	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Wheeler
"	21	3	Cayuga (Ont)	Watson et al
"	22	1	Pt. Breeze	Lazarczyk et al
Sanderling	6; 22	14; 15	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson; Vandermeulen
"	9	2	Buffalo Harbor	Wheeler, Pawlicki
"	9; 22	1; 2	Pt. Breeze	Pawlicki; Watson et al
"	19	3	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Semipalm. Sandpiper	5	70	Elba	Beattie, Hartwig
"	9	300	Port Colborne (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	9	275	Wainfleet (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	21; 22	122; 125	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson; Vandermeulen
* <u>Western Sandpiper</u>	15, 16	1	Wilson	Pawlicki et al
"	16	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Hess et al
White-r. Sandpiper	6F	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	15	1	Dunnville (Ont)	D'Anna et al
"	21	2	Cayuga (Ont)	Watson et al
"	22	3 + 1 juv	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Vandermeulen

<u>Species</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	24 - 26	2	Wilson	D'Anna, Mitchell
* Baird's Sandpiper	3F - 5	1	Wilson	D'Anna et al
"	6	1	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	8	1	Elba	Beattie
"	22	1 juv	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Vandermeulen
Pectoral Sandpiper	1; 8	13; 10	Elba	D'Anna; Beattie
"	6	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	16	2	Wilson	Pawlicki, Hess
"	22	8	Elba	Watson, Lazarczyk
Dunlin	25	1	Wilson	Mitchell
Stilt Sandpiper	1 - 22	1 - 5	Elba	Beattie, D'Anna et al
Short-b. Dowitcher	9	5	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg
Wilson's Snipe	8 - 10	2 - 4	Elba	Mitchell, Salembier et al
"	29	5	Wilson	D'Anna
* <u>Laughing Gull</u>	21	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki et al
"	22	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson, Lazarczyk
Bonaparte's Gull	7	14	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Ring-billed Gull	21	2500	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Wheeler
Lesser Black-b. Gull	<u>23</u>	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	<u>24</u>	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Wheeler
Caspian Tern	22	26	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson, Lazarczyk
Common Tern	4	34	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	16	70	Wainfleet (Ont)	Watson
Black Tern	2	2	Tonawanda WMA	Watson, Gordon
"	2; 19	2; 2	Iroquois NWR	Watson; Roberson
Mourning Dove	11	600	Wilson	D'Anna
Black-billed Cuckoo	22	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	24F	1	Amherst	Klick
Common Nighthawk	10F, 11	9, 10	Williamsville	Salembier
"	14; 24	2; 2	Amherst	Pawlicki; Klick
"	28	5	Buffalo	Yoerg
"	29	1	Wilson	Pawlicki, Wheeler
"	31	9	Salamanca	Baird
Whip-poor-will	27	4	Wainfleet Bog (Ont)	Yoerg
Red-headed Wdpkr.	5	3	Wainfleet (Ont)	B&J Farnan
"	16	1	Morgan's Pt. (Ont)	Sweeney, Watson
"	25	1	Olcott	Beattie, Hartwig
Red-bellied Wdpkr.	8	1 imm	South Valley	Baird
Olive-s. Flycatcher	20F	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	28	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Yellow-b. Flycatcher	24F	2	Tifft NP	Watson, Pawlicki
"	30	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Acadian Flycatcher	24	1	Tifft NP	Pawlicki, Watson
Least Flycatcher	24F	1	Tifft NP	Pawlicki, Watson
Yellow-thr. Vireo	22	1	Bethany	Beattie
Philadelphia Vireo	28F	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Common Raven	6, 27	2, 2	Alfred	Brooks
Bank Swallow	3	210	Tonawanda I.	Watson
Cliff Swallow	3	20ad+57yg	Tonawanda I.	Watson
"	4	4ad+2yg	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	9	1	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
"	29	2	Wilson	D'Anna
Red-br. Nuthatch	25 - 31	1	Niagara Falls (f)	Roberson
Carolina Wren	1	2	Eden (f)	Andrle
"	6	1	Port Colborne (Ont)	Watson

<u>Species</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	7	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	16	6	Wainfleet (Ont)	Watson, Sweeney
"	22	3	Pt. Gratiot	Watson, Lazarczyk
"	28	2	Mouth of Catt. Creek	Neveu
Winter Wren	28	2	Ward	Brooks
Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	24	3	Tifft NP	Watson, Pawlicki
"	28	2	Alden	Mitchell
"	30	1	Morgan's Pt. (Ont)	Happ, Morien
Veery	5F, 29	1, 2	Tonawanda (night mig.)	Hess
"	24	1	Tifft NP	Watson, Pawlicki
Hermit Thrush	14	1	Bethany	Beattie
Northern Mockingbird	5	1	Tonawanda	Chilton
"	6	1	Port Colborne (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	21	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson et al
Blue-winged Warbler	27F	2	Sheridan	Neveu
"	30	1	Tifft NP	Morgante
Tennessee Warbler	24F	1	Tifft NP	Watson
Nashville Warbler	29F	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	29F	1	Olcott	Potter, D'Anna
Yellow Warbler	6	30	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Pawlicki, Watson
"	25	1	Sheridan	Neveu
"	30	1	Morgan's Pt. (Ont)	Happ, Morien
Chestnut-s. Warbler	24F	2	Tifft NP	Watson, Pawlicki
Magnolia Warbler	24F	2	Tifft NP	Watson
"	28	2	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
Bl.-thr. Blue Warbler	28F	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Yellow-r. Warbler	24F	1	Tifft NP	Pawlicki, Watson
"	27	1	Sheridan	Neveu
"	30	1	Goat I.	Roberson
Bl.-thr. Green Warb.	24F	1	Tifft NP	Watson, Pawlicki
"	29	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Blackburnian Warbler	24F	1	Tifft NP	Pawlicki, Watson
"	27	1	Sheridan	Neveu
Pine Warbler	27	3	Sheridan	Neveu
Bay-breasted Warbler	24F	2	Tifft NP	Watson, Pawlicki
Blackpoll Warbler	30F	1	Morgan's Pt. (Ont)	Happ, Morien
Black-&-white Warb.	30F	1	Morgan's Pt. (Ont)	Happ, Morien
Northern Waterthrush	20	1	Mud Lake (Ont)	Klick et al
Louisiana Waterthrush	4	1	Almond	Rising
Hooded Warbler	19	1 juv	Orchard Park	Zebehazy
Wilson's Warbler	22F	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	24	1	Times Beach NP	Pawlicki, Watson
Canada Warbler	20F	2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson et al
"	22	1	Amherst SP	Yoerg
Clay-col. Sparrow	<u>28</u>	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Pawlicki et al
White-thr. Sparrow	13	5	Alfred	Brooks
Red-w. Blackbird	17	300	Elba	Pawlicki et al
* <u>Yellow-h. Blackbird</u>	9 - 10	1	Elba	Pawlicki
"	10	1	Elba	Beattie
Baltimore Oriole	27	3	Sheridan	Neveu
"	30F	7	Tifft NP	Morgante

Species, subspecies, and named hybrids previously recorded this year: 269

Species, subspecies, and named hybrids recorded this month: 006

Total for the year 2009: 275

Buffalo Ornithological Society

Shorebird Count

August 16, 2009

Lynne Landon & Terry Yonker

Weather Synopsis

Sunrise: 6:23 AM EDT. The morning of the Shorebird Count dawned with clear skies along most of the 50 mile reach of Lake Erie's north shore. However, some heavy ground fog was found within several of the ten reaches early in the morning. Temperatures ranged from the mid 60's at dawn to upper 70's by noon. Winds were light averaging 5 mph from the west-southwest in advance of a cold front which passed through the count area the following day.

2009 BOS Shorebird Count

Species in each Reach	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Black-b. Plover	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amer. Golden Plover	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Piping Plover	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Semipalm. Plover	0	3	0	0	11	1	4	0	2	6	27
Killdeer	2	19	0	12	14	4	12	20	4	8	95
G. Yellowlegs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
L. Yellowlegs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Solitary Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Willet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spotted Sandpiper	11	15	6	3	7	17	3	2	4	2	70
Upland Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whimbrel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marbled Godwit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Turnstone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Red Knot	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sanderling	0	0	0	0	2	7	0	0	2	0	11
Semipalm. Sandpiper	1	26	0	0	228	0	29	0	80	32	396
Western Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Least Sandpiper	0	35	0	0	13	11	36	0	10	8	113
White-r. Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	10	6
Baird's Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Pectoral Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	4	10
Purple Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dunlin	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Stilt Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Buff-br. Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Short-b. Dowitcher	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Long-b. Dowitcher	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Common Snipe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Am. Woodcock	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wilson's Phalarope	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red-n. Phalarope	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red Phalarope	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unidentified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	15	98	6	15	280	40	84	22	106	70	736

Nine Year Summary of BOS Shorebird Counts

Species	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Black-b. Plover	30	58	12	10	1	6	4	9	0
Amer. Golden Plover	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Piping Plover	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Semipalm. Plover	51	80	116	118	79	127	68	47	27
Killdeer	264	132	265	139	156	44	367	101	95
G. Yellowlegs	28	23	44	2	7	3	11	2	0
L. Yellowlegs	336	204	98	12	95	10	122	7	2
Solitary Sandpiper	6	3	2	1	2	3	5	1	1
Willet	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spotted Sandpiper	170	115	140	67	103	116	104	82	70
Upland Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whimbrel	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marbled Godwit	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Ruddy Turnstone	3	20	14	3	9	3	0	7	1
Red Knot	3	1	0	1	3	1	0	1	0
Sanderling	15	73	25	7	29	86	10	17	11
Semipalm. Sandpiper	215	322	527	229	490	338	89	167	396
Western Sandpiper	0	0	2	4	1	0	0	0	0
Least Sandpiper	294	339	257	173	420	308	394	93	113
White-r. Sandpiper	3	6	10	0	0	1	0	10	6
Baird's Sandpiper	3	11	0	11	13	4	2	2	3
Pectoral Sandpiper	47	63	15	4	49	15	1	2	10
Purple Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dunlin	0	4	0	2	0	0	6	1*	1
Stilt Sandpiper	0	2	1	0	4	0	0	1	0
Buff-br. Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Short-b. Dowitcher	8	22	29	0	38	12	3	2	0
Long-b. Dowitcher	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Common Snipe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Am. Woodcock	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wilson's Phalarope	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red-n. Phalarope	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Red Phalarope	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unidentified	18	9	9	5	0	12	10	0	0
Total	1500	1491	1569	788	1537	1090	1197	552	736

Participants:

Reach 1 – Lynne Landon, Terry Yonker
 Reach 2 – Mike Hamilton, Mike Happ
 Reach 3 – Peter Bonenfant, Marcie Jacklin, Tim Seburn
 Reach 4 – Jim Rozanski, Elizabeth Wells
 Reach 5 – Brian Ahara, Blayne Farnan, Jean Farnan,
Kayo Roy
 Reach 6 – Bob DeLeon, Donna DeLeon
 Reach 7 – Tom O'Donnell
 Reach 8 – Holly Sweeney, Bill Watson
 Reach 9 & 10 – Bill Broderick, Ken Cohen, Mike Galas,
 Ron Hacker, Chris Hollister, John Nishikawa, Gerry
Rising, Kevin Seymour, Greg Stuart

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November – December Calendar

BOS website

<http://www.bosbirding.org/>



Buffalo-Niagara Region
Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

Nov. 11: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Michael Hamilton will present the results of the 2009 Annual Buffalo Ornithological Society April Count focusing on species abundance changes from 1966 to the present. Dr. Robert DeLeon will interpret the result of the 2009 Annual BOS May Count in comparison with the 74 years of data in the Buffalo Ornithological Society May Count database.

Nov. 21: Saturday. Niagara River joint trip with Rochester Birding Association, for gulls and waterfowl. Meet at 9:00 AM at Fort Niagara State Park in the parking lot just outside the old fort. There is heightened security at the border. Make sure you have a passport, passport card, Nexus, or enhanced drivers license, so that you can get back into the United States. Dress warmly. Leaders: BOS Willie D'Anna (751-3637 or dannapotter@roadrunner.com) and RBA Bob Spahn (585-671-5690 or RSPAHN@prodigy.net).

Dec. 9: Buffalo Ornithological Society Annual Holiday Celebration at 7:00 PM in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Science Museum. Please bring a treat to share and enjoy an evening of birding friendship.

Dec. 20: Sunday. BOS Buffalo, NY Christmas Count. Compiler: Dave Gordon (390-1429, dgordonphoto@yahoo.com.)

Dec. 26: Saturday. Hamburg - East Aurora CBC. Compiler: Tom O'Donnell (284-5569 or tmodonnell@roadrunner.com)

Dec. 27: Sunday. Niagara Falls ON-NY CBC. Contact Willie D'Anna (751-3637 or dannapotter@roadrunner.com) to work on the NY side. Contact Kayo Roy (905-892-4433 or kayoroy@niagara.com) to work on the Canadian side. All payments and data go to the compiler, Kayo Roy, 13 Kinsman Court, Fonthill, Ontario, Canada L0S 1E3.

Jan. 2: Saturday. Beaver Meadow CBC. Compiler: Paul Fehringer (585-457-3228; fehringer@buffaloaudubon.org).

Jan. 3: Sunday. Port Colborne CBC: Compiler: Drew Campbell, 716-668-0759, drew.campbell@gm.com, drewcampbell@roadrunner.com. Meet 8 am at McDonald's Restaurant at Highway 58 and Highway 3, Port Colborne.

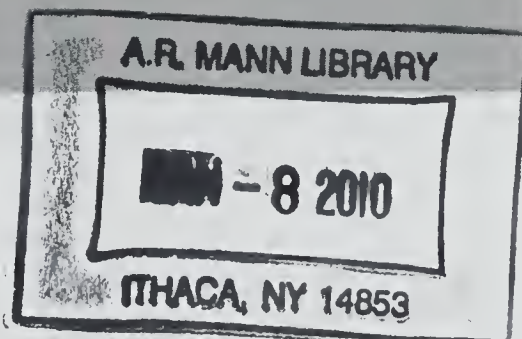
The PROTHONOTARY



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THE MONTH: October

Bill Watson

The Weather: The month's mean average temperature was 48.6 °F (2.1 °F below normal). The first 19 days of the month were dominated by below normal temperatures, and the last 12 days were at or above normal, with the warmest day on the 30th of the month when the temperature reached 60°F. The total precipitation was 4.77 inches (1.58 inches above normal) with more than an inch falling on the 4th and a little less than an inch on the 23rd. A trace of snow fell at the Buffalo Airport on the 15th and 16th, but locations to the south received several inches of snow and close to half a foot near the state line. Winds were about 2 mph less than usual. The strongest winds were on the 7th and were over 60 mph along the shore of Lake Erie. Surprisingly these west winds failed to produce any jaegers, but they may have been responsible for the 1290 Northern Rough-winged Swallows and possibly even the California Gull and Lesser Black-backed Gull seen from Goat Island. The only jaeger of the month was observed on Lake Ontario at Wilson on the 5th when the winds were from the west at 29 mph. October had only 25% of the possible sunshine, which is far below the normal of 50%. (Note: The normal data are based on the averages taken from 1971 to 2000.) Overall this October will be noted for its cloudiness, lake effect rain, and cool temperatures.

Early arrivals: There were two rare birds that arrived very early in October: California Gull and Cackling Goose. There are only five earlier records of Cackling Goose or *B. c. hutchinsii* than the one found by Willie D'Anna on the 6th at Tonawanda WMA. (Note: Of the six records of this bird before or on October 6th five have occurred in the last three years.) An even rarer and extremely early California Gull was found by on the 7th by Jim Pawlicki near Goat

at Reservoir S. P., this is our only October record of this gull. Increased awareness by birders of both of these species will probably result in more early records in the future.

Late Departures: Although the Sora documented by Doug Beattie in Alexander is our latest October record, on November 4, 1938, one was observed by Prochow on the lawn of the Dupont plant on River Road, and on November 2, 1941, another was found in Hyde Park by Herndon. The Least Sandpiper found near the corner of Griswold Road and Route 77 at the Tonawanda WMA is our third latest record. The only later records were recorded by Bob Andrie and Joe Thill at Erie Beach on October 31, 1959, and by Dominic Sherony at Batavia WWTP on the exceptionally late date of November 20, 2002. The Stilt Sandpiper found at same location as the previously mentioned



California Gull (top, upper - top, lower is a Ring-billed Gull for comparison) and Eared Grebe (left) photographed by Jim Pawlicki & Tom Killip respectively at Goat Island in Niagara Falls on October 7th and Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant on October 16th.

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Island's Three Sisters Islands in Niagara Falls. Although there was one found by Willie D'Anna and Betsy Potter on September 20, 1997,

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Least Sandpiper by John Welte and Don Roberson on the October 14 Annual October Count is one of our latest records of this species. There are only three later records of Swainson's Thrush than the one found by Jim Pawlicki on the 24th Woodlawn Beach S. P.

Rarities: The most exciting news this month was the return of the September juvenile **WHITE IBIS!** This cooperative bird consistently returned to the Great Egret roost at the north edge of Hunt Club Marsh near the center of the Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area and was well documented between September 20 and 27. There were a few negative reports, and then on October 3rd Rayfield Pye of the Durham Rare Bird Line reported a juvenile White Ibis on the west side of the Brock Street Bridge in Whitby, Ontario. David Suggs of the Buffalo Dial-a-bird

suggested the possibility that they were the same juvenile White Ibis pointing out that: "Whitby Harbor is on Lake Ontario near Toronto, about 35 miles north from the Tonawanda WMA, across the plains and lake. As far as I know, last sighting of ibis at Tonawanda was Tues, Sept. 29, and I believe there were two negative reports Sept. 30 and Oct. 2." Apparently the White Ibis at Whitby was a one-day wonder and was only seen and well photographed on October 3. Then on October 6th Bruce Ripley posted: "At 11:30a.m. this morning I saw a juvenile WHITE IBIS fly over my head by the lighthouse at Prince Edward Point. It flew in off the lake from the east and was heading west along the shoreline. I checked many shoreline spots between Prince Edward and Sandbanks P.P. but could not relocate it." So it seemed the ibis had flown from Tonawanda WMA to the Toronto area and then along the north shore of Lake Ontario toward the Atlantic flyway to start its southward migration. However, the evening of October 21 while counting Great Egrets at the Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area roost I was surprised to see a juvenile White Ibis land near the top of a tree with the Great Egrets at 6:10 PM. The next day it was observed and photographed by Joe Mitchell. Did this juvenile White Ibis fly 35 miles north to Whitby, Ontario and then fly 100

miles east along the north shore of Lake Ontario to Prince Edward Point only to return to Tonawanda WMA in late October? Or were there two or three different juvenile White Ibises? Although excellent photos of the bird were taken in Whitby showing marks characteristic of an individual White Ibis (as pointed out by Angus Wilson) the photos taken at Tonawanda WMA lack sufficient clarity and do not show individual marks that might identify the bird, with the possible exception of one photo of an underwing pattern of light gray blotchy areas taken by Mark Pearce on September 22. I wonder if any of those Toronto photographers have a photo of the underwing.

The Trumpeter Swans seen by Jim Pawlicki at Iroquois NWR and Oak Orchard WMA on the 12th and 21st, respectively, are our 7th and 8th October records. The Long-billed Dowitchers documented by several observers in the same marsh the Least and Stilt Sandpipers discussed above were observed until the 16th. There are 17 October records of Long-billed Dowitcher. Our first record of an October Long-billed Dowitcher was in 1892 in which James Savage wrote: "I am indebted to Mr. [Herman] Grieb for a specimen...shot from a flock [Short-billed Dowitchers] on Strawberry Island" (Savage 1895). It remains a bird requiring a verification report because of its confusion with Short-billed Dowitcher, although recent claims that it often has a hunched (rather than flat back) when feeding and a larger crop, making it look like it "swallowed a grapefruit," may help in distinguishing these two species.

The 74th Annual B.O.S. October Bird Count resulted in several rarities including: Long-billed Dowitcher; the Northern Goshawk at the Glendale sewage ponds in Section 2; our third latest Prairie Warbler which was with that late Stilt Sandpiper at Tonawanda WMA; and a Sandhill Crane. Northern Goshawk, Prairie Warbler and Sandhill Crane observed in the fall require verification reports.

High Counts: When compared to numbers in the 1964-2004 Noteworthy Records Database we find that: the 400 American Wigeon at Iroquois NWR has only about a half dozen higher counts; the 126 Great Egrets is higher than any in the Database; the 130 Killdeer in Shelby is the second highest in October; the 1290 Northern Rough-winged Swallows is the highest; the 50 Swamp Sparrows at Iroquois is the second highest; the 102 Horned Grebes at Sturgeon Point is the second highest in October; the six Long-billed Dowitchers is only bettered by the many observations of that species at Iroquois NWR in 2001.

I would like to acknowledge the following sources for providing information in the writing of The Month.

Beardslee, C. S. and H. D. Mitchell. 1965. *Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region*. Bulletin of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, vol. 22.
DiTomasso, D. D. Suggs et al. BOS Noteworthy Data Base 1964-2005.
Thomas, D. U. S. National Weather Service, Buffalo, New York.
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Suggs, David et. al. 2002. *Seasonal Checklist of the Birds - The Niagara Frontier Region*. Buffalo Ornithological Society, Inc.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Eighth Edition - Revised 2007) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration.

(f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicates nest(s). (yg) Indicates young.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Gr. White-fr. Goose	21F; 25	8	Iroquois NWR	Newton; Yoerg
Snow Goose	21	1	Somerset	Potter
"	21	2	Oak Orchard WMA	Newton
"	28	5 bl, 1 wh	Oakfield	Watson
Cackling Goose	<u>6F</u>	8	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna
"	21	5	Iroquois NWR	Newton
* Brant	13F; 20	1	LaSalle Park, Bflo	Lazarczyk; Rising, Mitchell
"	22	17	Port Weller (Ont)	Roy
"	24	140	Somerset	D'Anna, Watson (BOS)
"	24	1	Sturgeon Pt.	Wheeler, Pawlicki
Mute Swan	25	3	Olcott	Sharon
<u>Trumpeter Swan</u>	12	1	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki
"	21	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Pawlicki
Gadwall	27	20	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
"	28	23	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	28	63	Iroquois NWR	Watson
American Wigeon	13	400	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Lazarczyk
American Black Duck	19; 28	35; 26	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell; Watson
Blue-winged Teal	3, 5	15, 25	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
"	21L	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Newton
Northern Shoveler	2, 28	94, 74	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Northern Pintail	5; 21	15; 44	Tonawanda WMA	Morgante; Watson
Green-winged Teal	28	52	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Ring-necked Duck	2F	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	28	275	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Greater Scaup	2; 19	1; 23	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Mitchell
"	5	3	Wilson	D'Anna
Lesser Scaup	5; 28	3; 19	Batavia WWTP	Morgante; Watson
Surf Scoter	24	50	Somerset	Watson, D'Anna (BOS)
"	24	8	Sturgeon Pt.	Wheeler
"	24	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Wheeler
"	31	14	Jaeger Rocks (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
White-winged Scoter	5	90	Wilson	D'Anna
"	24	2	Hamburg Town Pk	Wheeler
"	24	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Wheeler
Black Scoter	5F	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	24	6	Somerset	Watson, D'Anna (BOS)
"	24	8	Hamburg Town Pk	Wheeler
"	24	3	Sturgeon Pt.	Wheeler

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	31	14	Jaeger Rocks (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Long-tailed Duck	17	2	Olcott	D'Anna
"	18	1	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg, Henderson
Bufflehead	2; 5	1; 1	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Morgante
Common Goldeneye	24	3	Somerset	D'Anna (BOS)
"	24	1	Silver Creek	Wheeler
Common Merganser	2; 5	83; 78	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Morgante
Red-br. Merganser	2	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	5	5	Wilson	D'Anna
Ruddy Duck	19; 28	100; 317	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell; Watson
Red-throated Loon	18F	1	Fort Niagara SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	24	3	Somerset	D'Anna, Watson (BOS)
"	24	2	Sturgeon Pt.	Wheeler, Pawlicki
Common Loon	5	60	Wilson	D'Anna
"	18	20	Fort Niagara SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	24	67	Somerset	D'Anna, Watson (BOS)
"	24	35	Sturgeon Pt.	Wheeler
Pied-billed Grebe	21	34	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Horned Grebe	5	3	Wilson	D'Anna
"	21	75	Silver Creek	Wheeler
"	24	10	Somerset	D'Anna, Watson (BOS)
"	24	102	Sturgeon Pt.	Wheeler, Pawlicki
Red-necked Grebe	12F	2	Wilson	D'Anna
Eared Grebe	3; 28	3; 1	Batavia WWTP	Morgante; Watson
D.-crested Cormorant	1	698	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
American Bittern	2	1	Wales	Christensen
"	13L	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Lazarczyk
Great Egret	1 - 5	1 - 2	Tonawanda	Hess
"	3, 21	126, 35	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	5	22	Strawberry I.	Watson
"	5	1	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
"	21	3	Tifft NP	Watson
"	23	5	Fort Erie (Ont)	Hess
Black-cr. Night-Heron	4	1	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
"	7	1	Buffalo	Yoerg
<u>White Ibis</u>	21	1	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	22	1	Tonawanda WMA	Mitchell
Turkey Vulture	10	125	Artpark	Wheeler
Bald Eagle	31	2 ad, 1 yg	Iroquois NWR	D&D Suggs
"	2 - 24	1	Throughout WNY	8 other records
Merlin	21	1	Iroquois NWR	Newton
"	29	1	Buffalo	Yoerg
Peregrine Falcon	2	2	Wilson	D'Anna
"	5	1	Niagara Falls	D'Anna
"	5	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	12	1	Grand Island	Pawlicki, Wheeler
"	22	1	Buffalo	Pawlicki
"	26	1	Tonawanda WMA	Morgante
Sora	<u>27L</u>	1	Alexander	Beattie
Common Moorhen	2L	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
American Coot	21, 28	99, 200	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Black-bellied Plover	7	3	Buffalo Harbor	Watson, Pawlicki
"	10	4	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
"	18	5	Wilson	D'Anna

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	24	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Wheeler
Amer. Golden-Plover	20L	1	La Salle Pk, Bflo	Salembier
Semipalmated Plover	4	3	Alexander	Beattie
"	10	4	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
Killdeer	31	130	Shelby	D&D Suggs
Greater Yellowlegs	26	3	Newstead	Watson, Pawlicki
"	31	3	Tonawanda WMA	Wheeler
Lesser Yellowlegs	18	3	Wilson	D'Anna
"	26	3	Newstead	Watson, Pawlicki
"	28L	1	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Solitary Sandpiper	4L	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Ruddy Turnstone	4	7	Alexander	Beattie
"	14	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Sanderling	5	21	Buffalo	Pawlicki
Semipalm. Sandpiper	4	3	Tonawanda WMA	Beattie
Least Sandpiper	5	1	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
"	6	2	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna
"	<u>26L</u>	2	Tonawanda WMA	Watson, Pawlicki
White-r. Sandpiper	2L	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Pectoral Sandpiper	18	9	Wilson	D'Anna
"	26L	1	Tonawanda WMA	Watson, Pawlicki
Dunlin	18	11	Wilson	D'Anna
"	21	12	Iroquois NWR	Newton
"	24	19	Angola	Wheeler
"	24	11	Sunset Bay	Wheeler
"	14 - 29	1 - 9	Throughout WNY	7 other records
Stilt Sandpiper	2, 3	2, 3	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	4; 10	3; 2	Tonawanda WMA	Beattie, Yoerg; Sharon
<u>Long-b. Dowitcher</u>	2, 3	2	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	4; 16	3; 1	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki
"	6	2	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna
Wilson's Snipe	18	5	Wilson	D'Anna
"	19	2	Knox Farm SP	Zebehazy
Parasitic Jaeger	5	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Little Gull	21	1	Silver Creek	Wheeler
"	24	1	Sturgeon Pt.	Wheeler
"	31	3	Niagara Falls	D'Anna, Potter
"	31	2	Lewiston	Potter, D'Anna
Bonaparte's Gull	21	1	Iroquois NWR	Newton
* <u>California Gull</u>	7	1	Goat I.	Watson, Pawlicki
Lesser Black-b. Gull	7; 10; 22	1; 3; 4	Goat I.	Watson; Wheeler; Pawlicki
"	17	2	Pt. Breeze	D'Anna et al
"	21	1 juv	Dunkirk Harbor	Wheeler
* <u>Sabine's Gull</u>	31F	1 juv	Niagara Falls	Potter, D'Anna
Common Tern	7	1	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
"	24	1	Sturgeon Pt.	Wheeler, Pawlicki
Nor. Saw-whet Owl	10; 17; 25	1; 8; 4	Wethersfield	Junkin
Ruby-t. Hummingbird	1	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Eastern Phoebe	18L	2	Alfred	Brooks
Northern Shrike	21F	1	Tonawanda WMA	Newton, Pawlicki
"	23; 27	1; 1	Alexander	Dart; Dart, Beattie
"	24	1	Somerset	D'Anna, Watson (BOS)
Blue-headed Vireo	17	1	Tifft NP	Newton
"	24	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Wheeler, Pawlicki
Red-eyed Vireo	24L	1	Beaver I. SP	Crowell

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Common Raven	3, 19	2, 1	Alfred	Brooks
"	4	3	Allegany SP	Baird
Horned Lark	28	35	Bethany	Beattie
Tree Swallow	2	95	Batavia WWTP	Watson
N. Rough-w. Swallow	4	10	Tonawanda WMA	Beattie
"	7	<u>1290</u>	Niagara Falls	Pawlicki, Watson
Carolina Wren	24	1	Sturgeon Pt.	Wheeler
Marsh Wren	8, 12	2	Amherst SP	Yoerg
"	12	1	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	23	1	Alfred	Brooks
Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	1L	1	Alden	Mitchell
Swainson's Thrush	1	1	Alden	Mitchell
"	<u>24L</u>	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Pawlicki, Wheeler
Northern Mockingbird	29	1	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
American Pipit	2	12	Wilson	D'Anna
"	3; 6	6; 50	Alexander	Dart; Mitchell
"	21	40	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki, Newton
"	28	18	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Orange-cr. Warbler	3	1	Wilson	Potter
"	5	1	Goat I.	Potter
"	8	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	8	2	Amherst SP	Yoerg
Nashville Warbler	17L	1	Tifft NP	Newton
Northern Parula	3	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
	5L	1	Goat I.	Potter
Magnolia Warbler	2, 3	1, 1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	8	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
Bl.-thr. Blue Warbler	5L	1	Goat I.	D'Anna
Bl.-thr. Green Warb.	3, 5	1, 1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	5	1	Goat I.	D'Anna
"	8	1	Amherst SP	Yoerg
Pine Warbler	4L	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
Palm Warbler	6	1	Batavia WWTP	Potter, D'Anna
Blackpoll Warbler	3	1	Wilson	Potter
Black-&-white Warb.	3	1	Grand I.	Sharon
American Redstart	8	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Northern Waterthrush	1-3L	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Common Yellowthroat	1	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Wilson's Warbler	3	1	Wilson	Potter
Eastern Towhee	8	2	Bethany	Beattie
"	14	1	Sheridan	Neveu
Amer. Tree Sparrow	18	1	Newfane	D'Anna
"	18	12	Andover	Brooks
Chipping Sparrow	24	5	Lake Erie SP	Wheeler, Pawlicki
"	27, 28	5, 2	Williamsville	Salembier
Field Sparrow	8	16	Bethany	Beattie
Savannah Sparrow	21L	2	Iroquois NWR	Newton
Fox Sparrow	8	2	Amherst SP	Yoerg
"	17	1	Carlton	Potter et al
"	21	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	21	12	Allegany SP	Baird
"	21; 28	1; 4	Iroquois NWR	Newton; Watson
"	24	1	Wilson (f)	D'Anna, Potter
Lincoln's Sparrow	17L	1	Tifft NP	Newton

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Swamp Sparrow	13	50	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Lapland Longspur	16F	1	Porter	D'Anna
Snow Bunting	24F	7	Sturgeon Pt.	Wheeler
"	28	7	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Indigo Bunting	1	1	Amherst	Pawlicki
Eastern Meadowlark	5	29	Knox Farm SP	Zebehazy
"	24	8	Somerset	D'Anna (BOS)
Rusty Blackbird	2	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
"	4	1	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
"	18	2	Wilson	D'Anna
"	19	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	20	5	Buffalo	Rising
Common Grackle	23	3	Williamsville	Salembier

Species, subspecies, and named hybrids previously recorded this year: 283

Species, subspecies, and named hybrids recorded this month: 003

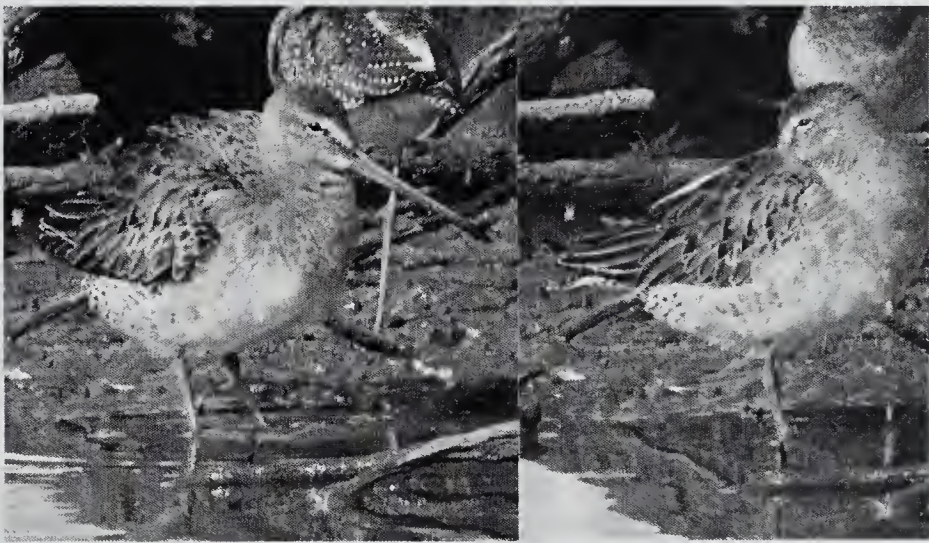
Total for the year 2009: 286

Statisticians' Note I: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision.

Statisticians' Note II: We are asking members of the BOS and any other birders who send in reports to the BOS to advise us as soon as they can of any possible errors in regard to records published in the Prothonotary, particularly in the Noteworthy Records so that we can make any necessary changes as soon as appropriate.



Brant photographed by Joe Mitchell at LaSalle Park on October 20th.



Long-billed Dowitcher photographed by Willie D'Anna at Tonawanda WMA on October 6th.



American Pipit photographed by Tom Killip at Batavia WWTP October 15th.

Report of the 74th Annual B.O.S. October Bird Count

Date: October 11, 2009

Compiler: Mike Hamilton

Weather Synopsis: Terry Yonker

Weather Synopsis

High pressure dominated the eastern Great Lakes on count day. A secondary cold front passed through the area in the early morning hours and a primary cold front passed through the count area during the afternoon. Both were accompanied by gusty winds from the northwest. Otherwise, light westerly winds and partly cloudy to mostly cloudy skies prevailed for most of the day.

Buffalo-Niagara International Airport

Sunrise: 7:24 AM EDT

Sunset: 6:39 PM EDT

TIME	WEATHER	TEMP	DEW PT	PRESSURE	DIR/WIND	REMARKS
Midnight	Mostly Cloudy	51°F	40°F	1018.8mb	W8mph	
3:00 am	Mostly Cloudy	46	34	1020.1	NW17G24	Wind Shift
6:00 am	Mostly Cloudy	42	32	1022.2	W7	
9:00 am	Partly Cloudy	41	29	1024.3	W9	
Noon	Partly Cloudy	45	27	1025.0	W12	
3:00 pm	Mostly Cloudy	46	29	1024.8	W12G28	Cold Front
6:00 pm	Partly Cloudy	46	26	1025.9	NW15G18	
9:00 pm	Partly Cloudy	41	28	1027.6	NW6	
Midnight	Partly Cloudy	37	29	1028.5	Calm	

Compilation: The following is a list of species recorded on the count together with the number of individuals tabulated. Bold face names indicate species for which acceptable written verifications were received. **F** represents first and **L** last dates for the fall migration, * first date for the year. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the section numbers are given in parentheses ().

GEESSE - HERONS

Snow Goose	2	(13)	unspecified scoters	2	(14)
Cackling Goose	3	(13)	Long-tailed Duck	6	(4)
Canada Goose	22796		Bufflehead	F 1	(2)
Mute Swan	38		Common Goldeneye	F 1	(3)
Wood Duck	208		Hooded Merganser	29	
Gadwall	57		Common Merganser	163	
American Wigeon	173		Red-breasted Merganser	107	
American Black Duck	45		unspecified mergansers	25	(7)
Mallard	2195		Ruddy Duck	110	
Blue-winged Teal	226		unspecified ducks	39	(3)
Northern Shoveler	46		unspecified waterfowl	295	
Northern Pintail	26	(7,13,15)	Ring-necked Pheasant	8	
Green-winged Teal	103		Ruffed Grouse	15	
Canvasback	18	(1,16,20)	Wild Turkey	277	
Redhead	7	(1,2,3)	Common Loon	157	
Ring-necked Duck	76		Pied-billed Grebe	75	
Greater Scaup	107		Horned Grebe	5	(3,4,13)
Lesser Scaup	288		Double-crested Cormorant	1200	
unspecified scaup	518	(2)	Great Blue Heron	81	
Surf Scoter	2	(3)	Great Egret	22	
White-winged Scoter	75	(3,4)	Green Heron	L 4	(3,13,19)
Black Scoter	7	(3)	Black-crowned Night-Heron	5	(1,2,7)

VULTURES - COOTS

Turkey Vulture	362		Northern Harrier	20	
Osprey	3	(6,18,25)	Sharp-shinned Hawk	28	
Bald Eagle	30		Cooper's Hawk	25	
<i>Cooper's/Sharp-shinned Hawk</i>	1	(3)	unspecified buteos	2	(20,23)
Northern Goshawk	1	(2)	American Kestrel	48	
unspecified accipiters	1	(7)	Merlin	2	(2,13)

Red-shouldered Hawk		9	
Broad-winged Hawk	L	1	(26)
Red-tailed Hawk		267	
Rough-legged Hawk	F	2	(2,20)

PLOVERS - TERNS

Semipalmated Plover	L	2	(7)
Killdeer		303	
Greater Yellowlegs		9	
Lesser Yellowlegs		11	(2,10)
Red Knot		1	(7)
Semipalmated Sandpiper	L	5	
Least Sandpiper		2	(2)
Pectoral Sandpiper		4	(8,10)
Dunlin		1	(2,10)
Stilt Sandpiper		1	(10)
Long-billed Dowitcher		6	(10)

PIGEONS - SWALLOWS

Rock Pigeon		2293	
Mourning Dove		1172	
Eastern Screech-Owl		6	
Barred Owl		3	(20,28)
Northern Saw-whet Owl		3	(15)
Chimney Swift		6	(17,20)
Ruby-throated Hummingbird		2	(20,27)
Belted Kingfisher		36	
Red-bellied Woodpecker		151	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		14	
Downy Woodpecker		252	
Hairy Woodpecker		97	
Northern Flicker		117	

TITS - WAXWINGS

Black-capped Chickadee		1170	
Tufted Titmouse		147	
Red-breasted Nuthatch		65	
White-breasted Nuthatch		292	
Brown Creeper		27	
Carolina Wren		14	
House Wren	L	4	(4,7,20)
Winter Wren		18	
Golden-crowned Kinglet		505	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		258	
Eastern Bluebird		405	

WARBLERS

Tennessee Warbler	L	3	(7)
Orange-crowned Warbler	L	5	(9,13)
Nashville Warbler		9	
Magnolia Warbler	L	3	(7,12)
Blackpoll Warbler	L	1	(2)
Black-and white Warbler	L	1	(9)
American Redstart	L	2	(9,17)

Eastern Towhee		42	
American Tree Sparrow	F	3	(10)

Peregrine Falcon		2	(3,20)
American Coot		434	
Sandhill Crane		1	(17)

Wilson's Snipe		3	(10,17)
American Woodcock		9	(19,20)
unspecified shorebirds		3	(3)
Little Gull		2	(9)
Bonaparte's Gull		76	
Ring-billed Gull		15793	
Herring Gull		8256	
Lesser Black-backed Gull		5	(3,5,9)
Greater Black-backed Gull		18	
Common Tern		1	(9)

Pileated Woodpecker		21	
Eastern Wood-Pewee		6	(7,11,20)
Eastern Phoebe		45	
Blue-headed Vireo		8	
Red-eyed Vireo		3	(2,17,24)
Blue Jay		1331	
American Crow		4844	
Common Raven		26	
Horned Lark		49	
Tree Swallow		435	
N. Rough-winged Swallow		95	
Barn Swallow	F	22	(20,22)

Gray-cheeked Thrush	L	1	(4)
Swainson's Thrush	L	6	(3,4)
Hermit Thrush		31	
American Robin		2379	
Gray Catbird		37	
Northern Mockingbird		13	
Brown Thrasher		3	(5,11)
European Starling		23412	
American Pipit		87	(2,3,17)
Cedar Waxwing		260	

Yellow-rumped Warbler		442	
Black-throated Green Warbler	L	5	
Palm Warbler	L	17	
Prairie Warbler		1	(10)
Common Yellowthroat		4	(7,8)
Wilson's Warbler		1	(24)
unspecified warblers	L	1	(13)

unspecified sparrows		1	(20)
Northern Cardinal		276	

Chipping Sparrow	291	Red-winged Blackbird	7414
Field Sparrow	70	Eastern Meadowlark	72
Vesper Sparrow	2 (7,19)	Rusty Blackbird	1066
Savannah Sparrow	11	Common Grackle	7160
Fox Sparrow	2 (20)	Brown-headed Cowbird	1117
Song Sparrow	458	Purple Finch	41
Lincoln's Sparrow	6	House Finch	296
Swamp Sparrow	76	Pine Siskin	F 2 (7)
White-throated Sparrow	1181	American Goldfinch	1331
White-crowned Sparrow	143	House Sparrow	1064
Dark-eyed Junco	330	unspecified birds	125 (20)

Summary Information – Total Species Observed**158**
Total Individual Birds Observed ... **118,639**

Comparisons – Associated charts, available from Michael Hamilton, give comparative summary information for the most recent decade, for the full 74 counts and decade by decade since 1935. A chart listing totals for each species per section for the 2009 count is also available. In addition the following notes are of interest:

RECORDS:

- First count record:** Prairie Warbler, 1
- Second count record:** Cackling Goose, 3
- Third count record:** None
- First decade record:** Prairie Warbler, 1; Wilson’s Warbler, 1
- Second decade record:** Cackling Goose, 3; Rough-legged Hawk, 2; Red Knot, 1; Long-billed Dowitcher, 6
- Third decade record:** Black Scoter, 7; Northern Goshawk, 1; Little Gull, 2; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 2

INDIVIDUAL SPECIES SINCE 1935:

- Highest count since 1935 (x the average):** Cackling Goose, 3 (60x); Mute Swan, 38 (7.6x); Bald Eagle, 30 (10x); Long-billed Dowitcher, 6 (22.2x); Lesser Black-backed Gull, 5 (25x). *Total of 5*
- Lowest count since 1935 (% of the average):** American Black Duck, 45 (10%). *Total of 1*

INDIVIDUAL SPECIES SINCE 2000:

- Highest count in past decade (x the average):** Cackling Goose, 3 (7.5); Mute Swan, 38 (25x); Gadwall, 57 (40x); Blue-winged Teal, 226 (2.7x); Canvasback, 18 (6x); Hooded Merganser, 29 (1.7x); Common Merganser, 358 (2x); Wild Turkey, 277 (1.3x); Bald Eagle, 30 (2.3x); Northern Goshawk, 1 (3.3x); Red-shouldered Hawk, 9 (5x); Rough-legged Hawk, 2 (5x); Long-billed Dowitcher, 6 (6x); American Woodcock, 9 (2.2x); Little Gull, 2 (4x); Herring Gull, 8256 (4.3x); Lesser Black-backed Gull, 5 (3.8x); Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 2 (4x); Eastern Wood-Pewee, 6 (3.8x); Barn Swallow, 22 (4.4x); Tennessee Warbler, 3 (4.3x); Wilson’s Warbler, 1 (0.1x). *Total of 21*
- Lowest count in past decade (% of the average):** Wood Duck, 208 (63%); American Black Duck, 45 (53%); Northern Shoveler, 46 (26%); Green-winged Teal, 103 (47%); Great Blue Heron, 81 (58%); Kildeer, 303 (49%); Greater Yellowlegs, 9 (26%); Dunlin, 1 (7%); Bonaparte’s Gull, 76 (17%); Mourning Dove, 1172 (57%); Barred Owl, 3 (60%); Gray-cheeked Thrush, 1 (2.4%); Blackburnian Warbler, 1 (23%); Savannah Sparrow, 11 (37%); White-crowned Sparrow, 143 (31%); House Finch, 296 (62%); House Sparrow, 1064 (60%). *Total of 18*

SIGNIFICANT POPULATION INCREASES AND DECREASES, DECADE 1966-1975 TO DECADE 2000-2009:

This report continues a change in the analysis of population change. Prior to 1966 the number of observers on these counts was fairly stable at around 150. In 1966 the Lake Erie Bird Club of Dunkirk, the Cattaraugus Bird Club, the Allegany Bird Club and the Jamestown Audubon Society began participating in the counts and the number of observers increased to approximately 250 where it has remained ever since. Given this stable number of observers it may be more revealing to compare population changes from the decade starting in 1966 to the current decade, rather than the entire count period to the current decade, as I have done in the past. And to make this comparison more scientifically meaningful t-testing has been used to compare the birds observed in the two ten year periods in order to determine if there has been a statistically significant change in the population of each recorded species. Those species whose population totals are statistically significantly different at the 95% confidence level are listed below.

- INCREASES:** *The numbers shown indicate the multiple by which the decade averages have increased except when no sightings occurred in the first decade, in which case the numbers in parenthesis indicate the total number observed in each of the two decades:*
Snow Goose, 3.6x; Canada Goose, 2.9x; Mute Swan, 0/246; Gadwall, 4.1x; Mallard, 2.4x; Northern Shoveler, 29x; Green-winged Teal, 1.9x; Ring-necked Duck, 9.1x; White-winged Scoter, 6.2x; Hooded Merganser, 4.5x; Common Merganser, 10.2x; Red-breasted Merganser, 7.3x; Ruddy Duck, 18.5x; Wild Turkey, 5.8x; Double-crested Cormorant, 2692x; Great Blue Heron, 1.5x; Great Egret, 0/151; Turkey Vulture, 11.2x; Bald Eagle, 44x; Sharp-

shinned Hawk, 3.1x; Cooper's Hawk, 2.6x; Red-tailed Hawk, 1.5x; Merlin, 22.5x; Peregrine Falcon, 23x; Ring-billed Gull, 1.98x; Rock Pigeon, 2.2x; Mourning Dove, 5.8x; Barred Owl, 2.5x; 18x; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 26x; Pileated Woodpecker, 2.7x; American Crow, 1.5x; Common Raven, 0/199; Tufted Titmouse, 12.3x; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1.7x; Carolina Wren, 4.1x; Eastern Bluebird, 2x; Northern Mockingbird, 3.1x; Northern Cardinal, 1.4x; House Finch, 265.9x; *Total = 39 species*; Observers, 1.2x.

DECREASES: *The numbers shown indicate the percentage to which the averages have decreased to except when no sightings occurred in the last decade, in which case the numbers in parenthesis indicate the total number observed in each of the two decades:*

American Wigeon, 25%; American Black Duck, 21%; Ring-necked Pheasant, 10%; Ruffed Grouse, 28%; American Bittern, 5%; Red-shouldered Hawk, 60%; Broad-winged Hawk, 30%; American Kestrel, 64%; Common Moorhen, 9%; Sanderling, 43%; Dunlin, 18%; Wilson's Snipe, 31%; American Woodcock, 17%; (11/0); Common Nighthawk, (14/0); Belted Kingfisher, 54%; Red-headed Woodpecker, 10%; Northern Flicker, 65%; House Wren, 44%; Swainson's Thrush, 23%; Wood Thrush, 41%; American Robin, 50%; Brown Thrasher, 19%; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 9%; Magnolia Warbler, 9%; Cape May Warbler, 11%; Blackburnian Warbler, 10%; Bay-breasted Warbler, 9%; Black-and-white Warbler, 21%; American Redstart, 24%; Northern Waterthrush, (9/0); Eastern Towhee, 26%; ; Field Sparrow, 33%; Vesper Sparrow, 3%; Savannah Sparrow, 31%; Fox Sparrow, 49%; Song Sparrow, 43%; Dark-eyed Junco, 42%; Red-breasted Grosbeak, 13%; Eastern Meadowlark, 10%; Pine Siskin, 25%; American Goldfinch, 52%; House Sparrow, 39%. *Total = 42 species*

Sections and Observers: Names of section compilers are in boldface.

1. Fonthill, ON: Art Hannah, **Lynne Landon**, Terry Yonker
2. Thorold, ON: Brian Ahara, **John Black**, Kayo Roy, Dan Salisbury, Maggie Smilie, John Stevens
3. Wilson, NY: Bill Broderick, **Willie D'Anna**, Dave Muller, Betsy Potter
4. Middleport, NY: **Bill Watson**, David Wheeler
5. Oak Orchard, NY: Donald Brasure, Sally Castren, Morgan Jones, Suasan O'Donnell, **Thomas O'Donnell**, Joyce Vanna
6. Port Maitland, ON: **Jerry Chapple**, George Thomas
7. Lowbanks, ON: Bobby Byron, Richard Byron, **Mike Hamilton**, Jim Rozanski, Liz Wells, Margaret Wooster
8. Fort Erie, ON: **Mike Zebehazy**
9. Grand Island, NY: Lewis Crowell, Michael Galas, Sylvia Galas, Ron Hacker, Sue Hacker, Bernie Kester, Debbie Milleville, **Gerry Rising**
10. Akron, NY: Ed Crohn, Donna DeLeon, Robert DeLeon, **Don Roberson**, Mary Ann Stegmeier, John Welte, Martha Welte
11. Buffalo, NY: Tim Simon, **Chuck Rosenberg**
12. Lancaster, NY: Chris Betrus, **Greg Coniglio**, Kurt Fox, Linda Holmes, Mahlon Miller, Nancy Miller
13. Batavia, NY: **Douglas Beattie**, Sharon Beattie, Carol Britton, Elaine Dart, Dwayne Fonda, Taler Fonda, Kurt Fox, Tad Gerace, Jack Hartwig, Jane Mason, Max Mason, Jim Ochterski, Joe Salvatore, Paula Stone, Don Thureau, Ginny Tiede
14. Hamburg, NY: Bob Andrie, Ken Brandes, Joanne Dobbler, **Fred Harrington**, Glena Leous, Mark Leous, Patty Madigan, Chris Newton, Nancy Vigyikan, Paul Vigyikan, Carolyn Willington
15. Java, NY: **Bill Bogacki**, Ed Ratajczak
16. Angola, NY: Tom Connare, Audrey Horbett, **Frances Rew**, George Robbins
17. Cattaraugus, NY: **James Pawlicki**, Joe Mitchell, Kyle Horton, Nick Glabicky, Melissa Graham
18. Delavan, NY: **Bruce Chilton**, Mike DeSha, Jim Landau, Karen Landau, Jim Wojewodzki
19. Fillmore, NY: Allegany County Bird Club: Ronald Andrews, Pauline Barber, Betty Bledsoe, Art Cooper, James Fegley, Dan Merritt, Meg Merritt, Larry Mullen, Virginia Norton, Michael Raybuck, Theresa Rork, Carol Stonemetz, Denton Willett, Jean Wilson, **Larry Wilson**, Richard Wilson
20. Dunkirk, NY: Lake Erie Bird Club: Chris Budniewski, Ray Budniewski, **Paul Farver**, **Joanne Goetz**, Thomas Goetz, Joe Gula, Phil Hanlon, Carol Hardenberg, Peggy Lanfer, Terry Mahoney, Terry Mosher, David Neveu, Bob Peterson, Beverly Ruska, Marty Sanden, Mary Shearman, Jeanine Smith, Ted Taft
21. Cherry Creek, NY: Jamestown Audubon Society: Ranjit Laha, Jesse Nelson, Joanne Nelson, , **Linda O'Brien**, Bob Sundell
22. Sherman, NY: Jamestown Audubon Society: Ann Beebe, Jim Berry, Reta Carden, Ruth Harden, Ranjit Laha, Nancy Karp, Susan Lawton, Miley Miller, **Linda O'Brien**, Harold Reynolds, Herb Smith, Bob Sundell
23. Frewsburg, NY: Jamestown Audubon Society: Ranjit Laha, Sue Lawton, Ruth Lundin, Steve Maggi, Bill O'Brien, **Linda O'Brien**, Jean Pigman, Bruce Robinson, JoAnn Robinson, Tom Simmons, Bob Sundell
24. Salamanca, NY and Allegany State Park: Cattaraugus County Bird Club: **Tim Baird**
25. Allegany, NY: Cattaraugus County Bird Club: **Jeff Reed**
26. Cuba, NY: Allegany County Bird Club: **Doris Burton**, Mary Jordan, Bob Smalley, Bruce Smalley, Sally Smalley
27. Bolivar, NY: Allegany County Bird Club: Russel Allen, Dan Babcock, Ann Brocci, **Doris Burton**, Michel Burton, Helen Link, Marie Paxhia, Wilma Sanford
28. Alfred, NY: Allegany County Bird Club: Russell Allen, Dan Babcock, Ted Bond, Don Brink, Betsy Brooks, Ken Burdick, **Doris Burton**, Mary Lou Cartledge, **Diane Converso**, Karol Doty, John Gradoni, Peter Gradoni, Geri Hills, Ralph Hills, Pat Hulse, Marion McClure, Kathy McDonald, Mary Ormsby, Evelyn Ramsey, Dan Ramsey, Ona Reynolds, Nancy Rouse, Maureen Soule, Wilma Taggart, Tim Timbrook, Barbara Ware, Katie Weiman, Mary Lu Wells, **Suzanne Wood**

Total Number of Observers: 195

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December – January Calendar

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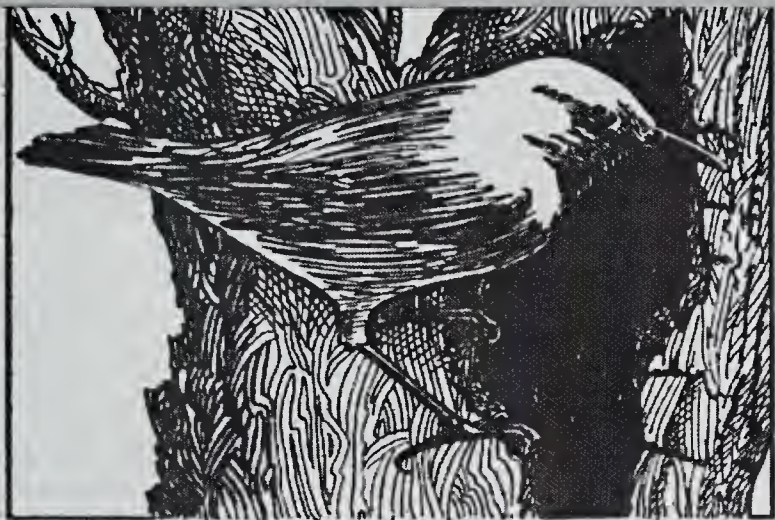
<http://www.bosbirding.org/>



Buffalo-Niagara Region
Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

- Dec. 19: Saturday. Wilson-Lake Plains CBC.** Compiler: Garner Light (491-4408) or garnerlight@hotmail.com).
- Dec. 19: Saturday. Dunkirk-Fredonia CBC.** Compiler: Joanne Goetz (goetz@netsync.net or 716-673-1627) and Paul Farver (716-792-9042).
- Dec. 20: Sunday. BOS Buffalo, NY Christmas Count.** Compiler: Dave Gordon (390-1429, dgordonphoto@yahoo.com).
- Dec. 20: Sunday. St. Catharines CBC.** Compiler: Marcie Jacklin (mjacklin@brocku.ca or 905-871-2577).
- Dec. 20: Sunday. Jamestown CBC.** Compiler: Bob Sundell (bird.central@madbbs.com or 716-484-2197).
- Dec. 26: Saturday. Hamburg - East Aurora CBC.** Compiler: Tom O'Donnell (284-5569 or tmodonnell@roadrunner.com).
- Dec. 27: Sunday. Niagara Falls ON-NY CBC.** Willie D'Anna (751-3637; dnapotter@roadrunner.com) on NY side or Kayo Roy (905-892-4433; kayoroy@niagara.com) on Canadian side. All payments and data go to the compiler, Kayo Roy, 13 Kinsman Court, Fonthill, Ontario, Canada L0S 1H1.
- Dec. 27: Sunday. 30th annual Oak Orchard Count.** Compiler: Celeste Morien (tcmorien@gmail.com) 585-721-8202.
- Jan. 2: Saturday. Beaver Meadow CBC.** Compiler: Paul Fehringer (585-43228; fehringer@buffaloaudubon.org).
- Jan. 3: Sunday. Port Colborne CBC.** Compiler: Drew Campbell, 716-668-0759, drew.campbell@gm.com, drewcampbell@roadrunner.com. Meet 8:00 AM at McDonald's Restaurant at Highway 58 and Highway 3, Port Colborne.
- Jan. 13: BOS Meeting. 7:00 PM** Mike Hamilton/Robert DeLeon on the B.O. October/May Ct in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Science Museum.
- Jan. 17: Sunday. January Waterfowl Count and mid-winter Bald Eagle Survey.** The count period is Jan. 16-24 with a preferred target date of Jan. 16. Contact Jim Landau at 941-3869 or kjlandau@localnet.com for information.
- Feb. 10: Wednesday. BOS Meeting** at 7:00 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Jean Iron will present a workshop on the 28 regularly occurring spring migrant and breeding shorebirds, & 8 rarer species that migrate through southern Ontario and western New York to their Arctic breeding grounds. It is loaded with tips to sharpen identification

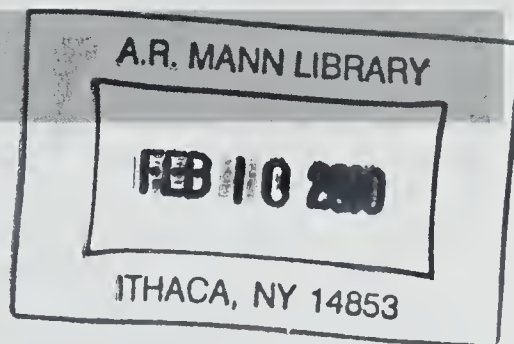
The PROTHONOTARY



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THE MONTH: November

Gerry Rising

Evidence for global warming? Hardly unless we count this November as one of the wide swings in weather, like the more recent southern snowstorms, that are to be expected as results of long-term climate change. Even so, this warm, dry, calm month was exceptional for a number of reasons. First time in 63 years no measurable snowfall; the 237 consecutive days without snow from April 8 to November 30, third longest; average temperature, tenth warmest; 13 days from the 6th to the 18th, third longest stretch without precipitation; Lake Erie month-ending temperature of 48° one degree below the historic maximum.

Supporting data: temperature average: 44.1°, 4° above average; total precipitation: 2.94 inches, down 1 inch; 41% sunshine, up 12%; wind average 6.9 mph, down 4.7 mph. As Weather Bureau meteorologist David Thomas tells us, November produced "comfortable Autumn days." The one exception: 1.5 inches of rain fell on the 19th.

But good weather seldom produces good birding. Birds drift through without the big flights that bad weather blocking them sometimes provides. Here is a summary of BOS records:

Waterfowl: A Ross's x Snow Goose hybrid on Chataqua Lake (Nov 29th, photo page 115), a single Greater White-fronted Goose at Iroquois NWR (6th) and a Northern Gannet at Wilson (1st) were exciting but some high counts were also interesting: 3700 Canada Geese (22nd), 131 Tundra Swans (29th), 770 Buffleheads (28th), 133 Hooded Mergansers (13th), 182 Common Mergansers (17th), 941 Ruddy Ducks (29th), 136 Red-throated Loons (7th). A weakened Cattle Egret was easily captured among domestic birds in Wilson (3rd) by AWARE (Association for

Wild Animal Rehabilitation and Education, Inc.) members Jackie Ridley, Robert Humbert and Jacalyn Perry, who

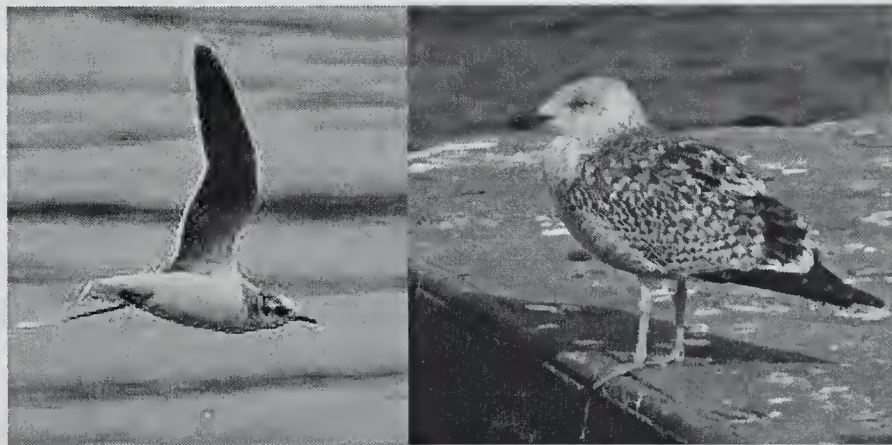
prepared the bird for release.

Raptors: 14 Bald Eagle records underscore the return of this species to local stability, a happy turn of events. Dave Junkin banded 9 Saw-whet Owls (8th, 10th) to add to the 28 he banded in October. Have these attractive little owls become more common or have we simply been seeking them out with better resources?

Shorebirds: Whatever the answer to that last question, it seems certain that better equipment helps to produce Long-billed Dowitcher records in their later fall flights (25th, 26th, see accompanying photos).

Gulls and Terns: Black-headed Gull (15th, 16th, 24th), California Gull (21st, 28th), and Forster's Tern (5th, 7th) added excitement to the early fall flights of Bonaparte's Gulls (6000 maximum, 28th) which included the usual small numbers of Little, Iceland, Glaucous and Lesser Black-backed Gulls. I have noticed a decline in the number of Great Black-backed Gulls recently; thus, it was a surprise to learn of 150 in Dunkirk Harbor on the 12th.

Song birds: A late Eastern Wood Pewee in Allegany SP (1st, usual departure October 14) and an Indigo Bunting at Tifft (8th, usual departure October 12) represent very late records. Only Yellow-rumped Warblers were reported. A hundred Horned Larks, 30 Snow Buntings and 6 Lapland Longspurs (at Shelby on the 8th) suggest a good flight of



Little Gull (left) photographed by Chris Newton at Lewiston on the Niagara River Nov. 21, 2009. First winter Great Bl.-backed Gull (right) photographed by Willie D'Anna at Olcott Beach on Nov. 22, 2009.

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these attractive field birds during this coming winter. Seven Pine Siskins (11th), the only record, suggests that we will not have another flight of these delightful little finches like last year's. Jerry Farrell tells me that other regional bird-banders confirmed his own very poor spring and fall banding seasons this year. This provides further evidence of the serious problems faced by the migrants that pass through our area.

To me the most interesting bird of this month was the single Evening Grosbeak that visited Jim Landau's feeder for a few days after the 4th. Despite their poor etiquette, I still miss these feeder-emptying grospsigs. Evidently they are returning in numbers to the Adirondacks, possibly in response to increasing numbers of spruce budworms, according to Ellen Rathbone, writing for the

excellent website *Adirondack Almanack* <www.adirondackalmanack.com>. No one would wish the budworms on our conifers, but at least we can hope to take the good (grosbeaks) with the bad (insects).

Arctic Tern Migration Route Mapped

For decades, it was widely suspected that a small seabird, the Arctic Tern, *Sterna paradisaea*, migrates an estimated 40,000 km each year -- the longest migratory journey of any animal. "This is a mind-boggling achievement for a bird of just over 100 grams," says Carsten Egevang, a seabird researcher with the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources.

Despite generally being acquainted with Arctic Terns' migratory flyway, no one really knew precisely where these birds went nor how far they actually traveled on each trip. "From ringing, we knew where the Arctic tern traveled," explains Mr. Egevang, who spearheaded a new study of the birds' migratory habits. "There have been all kinds of theo-

ries, but now, for the first time, we've been able to show what the birds are doing out there."

Until recently, only larger birds could be followed on their journeys, but thanks to new microtechnology, it is now possible to track much smaller birds, such as the diminutive Arctic Tern. Data collected by these new devices show that these birds travel an average of 70,900 km each year, confirming that Arctic Terns really are the world's champion commuters.

If you do the math, you'll find that during the average tern's lifetime of up to 34 years, they fly a remarkable 2.4 million kilometers. This is equivalent to traveling around the Earth 60 times or completing three round trips to the Moon! "We have shown that Arctic Terns can annually migrate up to 81,600 kilometres -- twice as far as previously thought," Mr. Egevang marvels. "They are the true kings of commuters, not the sooty [shearwater]."

Using similar technology, the much larger Sooty Shearwater, *Puffinus griseus*, was found to travel 64,000 kilometers (nearly 40,000 miles) whilst flying from New Zealand to the North Pacific Ocean in search of food.

An international team of scientists from Greenland, Denmark, the US, the UK and Iceland made this startling discovery after attaching tiny "geolocator" tracking devices to the legs of Arctic Terns and recording each individual's journey for one year. Seventy birds were originally tagged with the new devices, which weigh just 1.4 grams or one-twentieth of an ounce (see below).

A geolocator used to track individual Arctic Terns as they migrated from Pole to Pole.



Image: Carsten Egevang, PNAS

DOI: 10.1073/pnas.0909493107

The geolocators were provided by the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) and are similar to devices used previously to follow the migratory journeys of North American passerines (DOI: 10.1126/science.1166664). With an accuracy of 185 km in flying seabirds, the geolocators were used to document the migration routes, stopover sites, and wintering areas of the Arctic terns. The devices function by recording light intensity. These archived data provided the researchers an estimate of the local day length, and the times when sunrise and sunset occurred.

After analyzing each geolocator's sunrise and sunset data, the researchers estimated the geographical position for each of the birds and plotted it on a map (Figure 1 & 2). "The use of these devices on seabirds is not only revolutionizing our understanding of migration patterns, but the resulting data on distribution also help address the require-

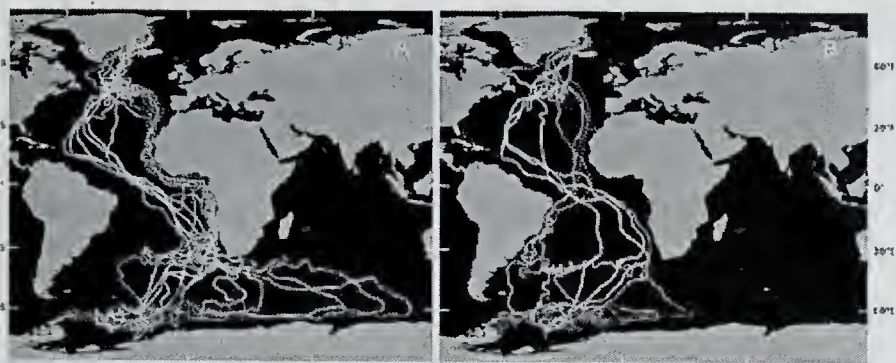
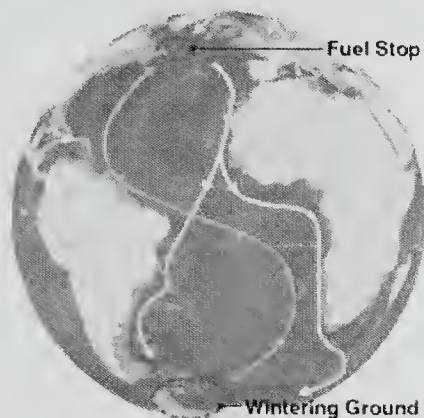


Figure 1 (above). Interpolated geolocation tracks of 11 Arctic terns tracked from breeding colonies in Greenland ($n = 10$ birds) and Iceland ($n = 1$ bird). Green = autumn (postbreeding) migration (August–November), red = winter range (December–March), and yellow = spring (return) migration (April–May). Two southbound migration routes were adopted in the South Atlantic, either (A) West African coast ($n = 7$ birds) or (B) Brazilian coast. [DOI: 10.1073/pnas.0909493107]

Figure 2 (right). Cartoon of migration results. yellow = autumn migration; red = winter range; orange = spring migration; red = fuel stop on autumn migration route. For BW-only arrowheads show the migration direction.



ment to identify important biological hotspots," comments one of the study's co-authors, Dr. Richard Phillips, an evolutionary ecologist and albatross expert at BAS.

After being tagged in their high-Arctic breeding colonies in Greenland and Iceland, eleven of the birds were recaptured when they returned to their breeding colonies the following year.

The analyzed geolocator data revealed some surprises. First, these data showed that the birds do not follow a direct route; instead, they wander south along either the African or Brazilian coasts -- even zigzagging across the Atlantic Ocean -- between their breeding colonies and winter feeding area.

Along the way, the birds stop at a deep water area in the middle of the North Atlantic Ocean (marked Fuel Stop in Figure 2). This previously unknown stopover is located roughly 1,000km (620 miles) north of the Azores, according to the researchers. This stopover is a rich "biological hotspot" created by the confluence of cold northern waters and warm southern waters. "We were able to compare biological productivity in the ocean from satellite imagery and we could see a high productive area that the birds will spend time in," reports Mr. Egevang. "Even more importantly, it's the last high productive area before they enter tropical waters where we know productivity is low." The terns remained in this biological hotspot for 10 to 30 days, resting and refueling by eating fish and zooplankton before resuming their southward journey to Antarctica.

Another surprise was that when the birds returned to their Arctic breeding grounds the following year, they did not retrace their southbound journey nor did they follow the shortest route. Instead, the birds traveled along a different route entirely; an "S"-shaped path that crossed the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. Their northbound journey ends up

being roughly 10,000 km shorter than their more convoluted southbound trip. "They make a detour of several thousand kilometers," explains Mr. Egevang when comparing their different seasonal migratory routes. "But once we start comparing the route to the prevailing wind system, it makes perfect sense -- moving in a counter-clockwise direction in the Southern Hemisphere, and clockwise in the Northern Hemisphere. It's just more energy-efficient for them to do that even though they are traveling several thousand more kilometers than if they flew in a straight line."

Interestingly, despite following a different seasonal migratory routes, the birds somehow manage to maintain a high level of breeding synchrony: nearly all birds arrive at their breeding colonies within one week of each other. "The new thing is that we've now been able to track the bird during a full year of migration, all the way from the breeding grounds to the wintering grounds and back again," states Mr. Egevang.

There are several more interesting biological features about Arctic Terns that this study helps emphasize. First, it raises the question of how these birds "know" which season they are experiencing. This is important because many birds rely on increasing daylength to trigger both northbound migration and moult into breeding plumage. However, when Arctic Terns depart the Weddell Sea to return to their breeding colonies, daylengths are actually decreasing.

Further, Arctic Terns apparently never experience daylengths of less than 12 hours (when they pass over the equator) and often experience daylengths as long as 24 hours. Due to their habit of "flying towards springtime" and spending significant periods of time at either pole, this species experiences more daylight than any other on the planet.

Equally intriguing; how do the birds know where in the world they are? And how do they know the date so they can maintain their high level of breeding synchrony? Do they track both the angle of the sun as well as reading the stars to provide a biological compass reading?

This new study suggests that overfishing and global warming could endanger the terns by reducing winter ice and krill in the Weddell Sea, where these terns spend their winters. Anders Møller, an ecologist at the University of Paris-South in France who was not involved with this research, agrees, and adds that climate change already is causing problems for Arctic Terns in their northern habitat. "My research suggests that they can no longer find suitable conditions in Denmark and are being forced to fly further north before settling down to breed, causing more adults to die."

This article is primarily taken from http://scienceblogs.com/grrlscientist/2010/01/fly_me_to_the_moon_the_incredi.php. The primary research article is Tracking of Arctic terns *Sterna paradisaea* reveals longest animal migration. Egevang C, Stenhouse IJ, Phillips RA, Petersen A, Fox JW, Silk JR. PNAS (2010)

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Eighth Edition - Revised 2007) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration.

(f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicates nest(s). (yg) Indicates young.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

<u>Species</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Gr. White-fr. Goose	6	1	Iroquois NWR	Newton
Snow Goose	13, 28	1, 1	Dayton	Neveu
"	14	3	Oakfield	J&K Landau, Wojewodzki
"	22	10	Long Beach CA (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	22 - 29	1 bl	Fort Erie (Ont)	Seburn, Jacklin et al
<u>Ross's x Snow Goose</u>	29	1	Chautauqua Lake	Pawlicki
Cackling Goose	6; 14	1; 1	Iroquois NWR	Newton; J&K Landau
Canada Goose	22	3700	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Brant	7	1	Port Weller (Ont)	Highcock, Hampson
"	26	1	Dunkirk	Lazarczyk, Gula
Mute Swan	21	3	Lewiston	Watson et al (BOS)
"	29	3 ad+3 im	Niag-on-the-Lake (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Tundra Swan	1F	15	Wilson	D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	14	13	Oak Orchard WMA	J&K Landau, Wojewodzki
"	22	5	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	28	26	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki et al
"	7, 20; 30	22, 55; 14	Beaver I. SP	Sharon; Hess
"	29	131	Chautauqua Lake	Pawlicki
"	30	2	Attica	Mitchell
Gadwall	8, 10	34, 30	Tifft NP	Watson
"	22	38	Batavia WWTP	Watson
American Black Duck	22	11	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	30	20	Attica	Mitchell
Northern Shoveler	8	2	Tifft NP	Watson
"	22	25	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Green-winged Teal	17	9	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
Redhead	22	3	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	22	1	Carlton	D'Anna
Ring-necked Duck	18	75	Attica	Mitchell
"	21	27	Hanover	Neveu
Surf Scoter	1	16	Wilson	D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	22	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
White-winged Scoter	21	4	Lewiston	Watson et al (BOS)
Black Scoter	1	12	Wilson	D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	24	4	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Long-tailed Duck	30	1	Attica	Mitchell
Bufflehead	11	240	Sheridan	Neveu
"	11; 28	500; 770	Fort Erie (Ont)	Hess; Watson
"	29	574	Chautauqua Lake	Pawlicki

<u>Species</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Common Goldeneye	29	76	Chautauqua Lake	Pawlicki
Hooded Merganser	13, 17	133, 104	Dayton	Neveu
"	15	29	Tifft NP	Watson
"	21	58	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson et al (BOS)
"	29	116	Chautauqua Lake	Pawlicki
"	30	64	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Common Merganser	1	41	Allegheny Reservoir	Baird
"	13, 17	153, 182	Dayton	Neveu
Ruddy Duck	13	5	Carlton Hill MUA	Hartwig, Beattie
"	22	446	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	29	941	Chautauqua Lake	Pawlicki
Red-throated Loon	7	136	Olcott	D'Anna
"	22	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	24	1	Hamburg	Lazarczyk
"	29	1	Chautauqua Lake	Pawlicki
Pied-billed Grebe	29	12	Chautauqua Lake	Pawlicki
Red-necked Grebe	1	13	Wilson	D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	15	2	Olcott	Yoerg, Henderson
Eared Grebe	14	2	Batavia WWTP	J&K Landau, Wojewodzki
* Northern Gannet	<u>1</u>	1	Wilson	D'Anna et al
D.-crested Cormorant	2	7	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
Great Egret	21	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Cattle Egret	3 - 10	1	Wilson	Perry et al
Bald Eagle	1	2 ad	Allegany SP	Baird
"	5, 19	3 juv, 1 ad	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	5	3 juv	Sheridan	Neveu
"	9	2	Navy I. (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	18	1 ad, 1 im	Attica	Mitchell
"	26	1 ad	Dayton	Mitchell
Northern Harrier	14	1	Oakfield	J&K Landau, Wojewodzki
"	22	2	Langford	M Zebehazy
Red-shouldered Hawk	6; 23	1; 1	Orchard Park	Morgante; M Zebehazy
Rough-legged Hawk	8	1	Charlotte	Rew, J&K Landau
"	15	1	Cambria	Yoerg, Henderson
"	18	1	Attica	Mitchell
Merlin	1	1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	22	1	Whirlpool (Ont)	Iron, Watson et al
"	28	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Iron
Peregrine Falcon	6; 21	2	N. Grand I. bridge	Yoerg; Watson
"	9	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Pawlicki, Watson
"	21	1 juv	Fort Erie (Ont)	BonEnfant, Jacklin et al
"	22	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	23	1	Batavia WWTP	M&W Zebehazy
"	28	1 ad	Niagara Falls	D'Anna et al
American Coot	29	574	Chautauqua Lake	Pawlicki
Sandhill Crane	<u>13</u>	1	Dayton	Neveu
Killdeer	25	10	Darien	Mitchell
Dunlin	8	3	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Yoerg
<u>Long-b. Dowitcher</u>	25	2	Darien Lakes SP	Mitchell, Horton et al
"	26	2	Darien Lakes SP	Newton
Little Gull	7; 21	1; 2	Lewiston	Newton; D'Anna et al
"	11	2	Wilson	D'Anna
"	21	1	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna et al (BOS)
"	28	3	Niag-on-the-Lake (Ont)	D'Anna, DiLabio et al

<u>Species</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	29	1	Barcelona Harbor	Pawlicki
"	29	1	Queenston (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Black-headed Gull	15F	1 ad	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Wheeler
"	16	1	Adam Beck Hydro	Watson
"	24	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Carlsons, Sherony
Bonaparte's Gull	8; 28	2000; 6000	Niag-on-the-Lake (Ont)	Yoerg; DiLabio
"	29	850	Barcelona Harbor	Pawlicki
<u>California Gull</u>	21, 26	1 (3 rd -wint.)	Lewiston & Queenston	D'Anna
"	21, 28	1 (3 rd -wint.)	Devil's Hole SP	Watson
Iceland Gull	15F; 21	1; 2	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Wheeler; D'Anna et al
"	16	1	Devil's Hole SP	Watson, Pawlicki
"	21; 28	3; 6	Adam Beck Hydro	D'Anna et al; Watson
Lesser Black-b. Gull	6	1	Four Mile Creek SP	Yoerg
"	8; 29	4; 5 ad	Goat I.	Yoerg; Yoerg, Henderson
"	16	1	Moses Power Project	Watson, Pawlicki
"	21	2	Adam Beck Hydro	Watson et al (BOS)
"	21	3	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson et al (BOS)
Glaucous Gull	28F	1	Whirlpool (Ont)	Watson et al
"	28F	2	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki et al
Great Black-b. Gull	12	150	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Forster's Tern	5, 7	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Barred Owl	16	1	Alexander	Dart
N. Saw-whet Owl	8, 10	6, 3 band	Wethersfield	S&D Junkin
Red-bellied Wdpckr.	1	1	Allegany SP	Baird
Eastern Wood-Pewee	<u>1L</u>	1	Allegany SP	Baird
Northern Shrike	3 - 26	9 reports	BOS territory	Several observers
Common Raven	1 - 28	1 - 2	Alfred	Brooks
"	2 - 13	1 - 4	Ward	Brooks
"	16	2	Alexander	Mitchell
Horned Lark	6	100	Shelby	Newton
Carolina Wren	3, 4, 23	1	Clarence	Castren
"	17	1	Alden	Mitchell
"	20	2	Mouth of Catt. Creek	Neveu
Winter Wren	7	1	Mouth of Catt. Creek	Neveu
"	8	1	Ward	Brooks
"	9	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Pawlicki, Watson
"	21	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson et al (BOS)
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	8	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	25	2	Bethany	Beattie
Eastern Bluebird	25	9	Bethany	Beattie
"	25	1	Mouth of Catt. Creek	Neveu
"	27	3	Poland	Mitchell
Gray Catbird	15	1	Golden Hill SP	Yoerg, Henderson
Northern Mockingbird	8, 10	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	12	1	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
"	26	1	Bethany	Beattie
Brown Thrasher	3	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	8L	1	Tifft NP	Watson
Yellow-r. Warbler	8	4	Goat I.	Yoerg
"	9	2	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson, Pawlicki
"	10	1	Tifft NP	DiTommaso, Watson
Fox Sparrow	1	2	Allegany SP	Baird
"	1, 3	3, 1	Alfred	Brooks
"	1, 2 - 30	4, 2	Colden	J&K Landau

<u>Species</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	2	1	Holland	Newton
"	9	3	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson, Pawlicki
"	14	1	Wilson (f)	Potter
Lapland Longspur	4	1	Porter	D'Anna
"	6	3 - 6	Shelby	Newton
"	8	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Snow Bunting	1	6	Wilson	D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	6	30	Shelby	Newton
"	22	24	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Indigo Bunting	8L	1	Tifft NP	Watson
Red-w. Blackbird	9	30	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson, Pawlicki
"	12	5	Tifft NP	Sharon
Rusty Blackbird	6	6	Tonawanda WMA	Newton
Common Grackle	14	1	Sinking Ponds NS	Morgante
Purple Finch	2	1	Holland	Newton
"	15	2	Golden Hill SP	Yoerg, Henderson
Pine Siskin	11	7	Wilson (f)	Potter, D'Anna
Evening Grosbeak	4F	1	Colden	J Landau

Species, subspecies, and named hybrids previously recorded this year: 286

Species, subspecies, and named hybrids recorded this month: 001

Total for the year 2009: 287

Statisticians' Note I: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision.

Statisticians' Note II: We are asking members of the BOS and any other birders who send in reports to the BOS to advise us as soon as they can of any possible errors in regard to records published in the Prothonotary, particularly in the Noteworthy Records so that we can make any necessary changes as soon as appropriate.



Ross's x Snow Goose hybrid photographed by Jim Pawlicki at Chataqua Lake on Nov. 29, 2009.



Long-billed Dowitchers photographed by Chris Newton at Darien Lakes State Park on Nov. 26, 2009.

Buffalo Ornithological Society
Buffalo Museum of Science
1020 Humboldt Parkway
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Buffalo-Niagara Region
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February – March Calendar

Feb. 10: Wednesday. BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Jean Iron will present a workshop on the 28 regularly occurring spring migrant and breeding shorebirds, & 8 rarer species that migrate through southern Ontario and western New York to their Arctic breeding grounds. Her talk is loaded with tips to help sharpen identification skills.

Feb. 20: Marsh Monitoring Volunteer Orientation & Training Workshop 10 AM - 2 PM at Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve Environmental Education Center, Depew, NY. To register for this workshop, contact Kathy Jones at Bird Studies Canada at 1-888-448-2473 ext. 124 (toll free) or e-mail aqsurvey@birdscanada.org. Directions and details will be provided upon registration. Visit www.birdscanada.org/mmpmain.html for more information.

Mar. 1 - May 15: Hamburg Hawk Watch at Lakeside Memorial Park in Hamburg (off Camp Rd. between Routes 5 & 20). Generally 10 AM - 3 PM weather permitting. Visitors are welcome. Contact Jim Landau for additional info (941-3869 or kjlandau@localnet.com).

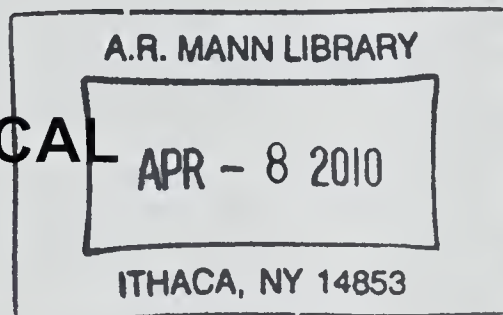
Mar. 7: Sunday. Niagara County, New York, Owl Trip. Meet at 1:00 PM near the Save-a-Lot entrance at the Summit Park Mall on Williams Road just south of Niagara Falls Blvd. in the Town of Wheatfield. Leader: Chuck Rosenberg (655-0231, cprosenb@roadrunner.com, cell phone: 622-3278).

Mar. 10: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Chuck Rosenberg (New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Wildlife Biologist) will present his recent research on wintering Short-eared Owls in New York.

Announcement: Compilers for April and October Counts Needed: After many years of service, Mike Hamilton is retiring as the Compiler of our April and October Counts. If you are interested in becoming the Compiler for one or both of the counts, please contact Tom O'Donnell at 284-5569 or tmodonnell@roadrunner.com

The Prothonotary

BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Volume 76, No. 1 January 2010

THE MONTH: December

Michael DeSha

According to the National Weather Service "December was a dismal month," even more so than usual with the 20% of possible sunshine being less than the normal 27% during this cloudiest month of the year. Only one day was classified as mostly sunny while twenty were mostly cloudy and eleven of those days had no sun at all. Winds were moderate during the month with strong winds up to 60 mph on the 9th and 10th.

The average temperature of 28.6 °F was 1.2 degrees below normal. The mildest periods came during the first half of the month while the second half, except for a few days at Christmas, was colder and included a nine-day stretch of subfreezing temperatures from the 16th to the 24th. Lake Erie fell to 36° by month's end which is normal for the date. Precipitation was heavy at 5.13 inches, 1.33 inches more than normal. The rainfall total placed this December in twelfth place in the 139-year record of wettest Decembers. The rest of the precipitation fell as 25.1 inches of snow, just about matching the normal 25.5 inches for the month.

There were three lake-effect events. The first snow of the season occurred on the 1st. About three weeks later than average and ending November's snowless streak, this event dropped over 5 inches at the Buffalo Airport with the rest of the area getting 1 to 4 inches. It melted rapidly as the temperature climbed into the 50's. The next event occurred on the 9th and 10th as the dramatic warm-up was followed by heavy rain and a burst of heavy lake-effect snow on the 10th.

Accumulations varied widely from an inch or two in the north towns to a foot across the southern and far eastern suburbs. There was a drenching one-inch rainfall on the 25th-26th, and thanks to the east coast blizzard

Another brief but intense lake-effect on the 28th dropped several inches in a few hours. The month, year and decade ended fairly quietly with a mild overcast New Year's Eve over a thin snow cover.

December 2009 may have been "dismal" weather-wise, but it was certainly not the case with the birding. In some ways very similar to last December, since there was an American Avocet and the now expected gulls, there were several other surprise finds beginning with a Ross's Goose on the Niagara River on December 5. The goose was discovered first by the Burells and their group who alerted Willie D'Anna and Betsy Potter who



(Above) American Avocet photographed by Jim Pawlicki at Dunkirk Harbor on December 14 and Barrow's & Common Goldeneye (Below) at Point Breeze on December 16, 2009.



- 1 **The Month**
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- 9 **Statisticians' Note**
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Michael DeSha

Robert DeLeon

Bruce Chilton

Mike Morgante

occurring at the same time, Buffalo was the only sizable city in the northeast to have a green/brown Christmas. Winter returned during the final few days though.

The Prothonotary is published monthly by the Buffalo Ornithological Society, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, NY 14211. Send address changes to Karen Landau, S-9195 State Road, Colden, NY 14033.

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spotted it just offshore. D'Anna provided a verification noting the all white plumage, except for the black primaries and the small size compared to the Canada Geese with which it was first associating. The report was accompanied by a photograph that showed the small triangular bill also noted in the report.

Bill Watson and Jerry Lazarcyczk found a dark juvenile Trumpeter Swan on the Oak Orchard River in Waterport, Orleans County.

For several years now Jim Pawlicki has been observing Barrow's Goldeneye at Point Breeze (Usually found and reported

by Dave Tetlow). Going beyond the field guide's distinction of the oval facial spots on drake Common Goldeneyes and the crescent-shaped spot on the Barrow's Goldeneye, Pawlicki in his verification report noted the "subtly different" head and bill shape as well as the more extensive black rear flanks and mantle on the Barrow's Goldeneye. The photos accompanying Pawlicki's verification show the Barrow's and Commons together, allowing a close comparison of the two species.

For the second December in a row an American Avocet was seen in our area, this time in Dunkirk Harbor. First spotted by David Neveu on the 12th, this accommodating bird was last seen this month on the 31st by Doug and Sharon Beattie, and in between these dates by a mob of others, including Jim Pawlicki and Bill Watson who provided additional verification reports. According to Beattie's verification, the bird when he saw it was feeding mainly "in a small inlet of Dunkirk Harbor, adjacent to power plant. Water was shallow allowing bird to walk on bottom while feeding and resting. The inlet was bordered on 3 sides by a power plant, a lawn of a conservation club, and a dock. Mud shore line about 6 ft. wide up against the conservation club lawn and a rocky shore line up against the power plant. Some overhanging box elder trees were on mud shore line and the rocky shore line." Pawlicki described the bird in first basic plumage as: "A very tall, large shorebird, standing about as tall as nearby standing Ring-billed Gulls. All of underparts, including undertail, flanks, vent, sides, belly, and lower breast, in addition to the forehead, gleaming white. Back of neck, nape,

auriculars, and crown dusky gray. Upperparts predominantly a mix of black and white, with gleaming white mantle and lower scapulars, dusky brown secondaries and tertials, and blackish upper scapulars, upperwing coverts, and primaries. Heavily worn brownish tertials indicate first-basic plumage. Bill black, thin, and fairly long with slight upward curvature about 1/3 from tip. Legs long and pale dusky blue in coloration. Eyes appeared blackish." Considering the observation of the small curvature of the upturn of the bill, Bill Watson and David Neveu both suggest it was most likely a male. Many spectacular photographs accompanied these verifications, leaving absolutely no question as to the identity of this bird.

In what is the first B.O.S. record for Allegany County, Bill Watson and Jim Pawlicki spotted an immature Iceland Gull on Cuba Lake on December 2nd. They also found there three Lesser Black-backed Gulls, the third B.O.S. record of this species for the county, as well as an immature Glaucous Gull. Among the ten species of gulls reported on the Niagara River in December were a Black-headed Gull seen by D'Anna on the 5th and by the Skevingtons on the 23rd as well as the third-winter California Gull seen originally in November that lingered throughout December.

A lingering bird created a puzzle for Joe Mitchell. He spotted a sparrow on the 27th with a white eye-ring and white outer rectrices, but being used to only drab-plumaged Vesper Sparrows, he didn't immediately recognize it for what it was (shown right). He posted his pictures on the internet and the response was that it was a Vesper



Sparrow, which he confirmed in his verification. Before the early 1970's, Vesper Sparrow was much more common than it is today. There are seven previous records of this species in December, four in January, and two records in January, but twelve of these records are before 1972. This year's record is the latest for Vesper Sparrow in the last 39 years.

On December 27th, Kurt Fox saw a blackbird in a Black Locust tree at a small farm in Shelby Township of Orleans County. Fox first noted the bird's pale eye and immediately decided it was either a Brewer's or Rusty Blackbird. Separating these species in what appeared to be summer plumage is one of the tougher ID's and many of us might just opt for a higher probability Rusty Blackbird. The Brewer's Blackbird range is expanding and there are breeding populations in Ontario. The farm is not typical Rusty Blackbird habitat and Fox thought the bill was shorter than he anticipated for a Rusty Blackbird. Fox got the bird in his scope and determined that the bird he saw was a Brewer's Blackbird. I am providing Fox's analysis from his verification:

"I set up scope and closed in on the bird to 30 yards or so. With a frame-filling view and distinguishing individual feathers, the bird was noticeably black. None

of the head or breast feathers had even the slightest of rufous edging. The wings did not have the red/yellow epaulets of Red-winged. The bird was primarily facing me, so I was unable to ascertain back, scapulars, and tertials at close distance. Once while it was twisting its neck, the bib and upper breast showed a glossy iridescence. The bill was entirely black. The legs were black (and unbanded). Eyes were lemony yellow (not whitish).

- ...[W]hy this bird was not a Rusty Blackbird
 - Body shape – slender body and not chunky; relatively shorter body / longer tail
 - Bill shape – tapered bill that is deeper/thicker at base; relatively shorter billed.
 - Habitat – bird was at a farm, and flew across open fields, perched high in trees and in hedgerow. Rusty Blackbird (especially at this time of year) hang pretty close to wooded swamps.
 - Female
 - Plumage. All black bird slight sheen – absolutely no rufous feather edges.
 - Male (fall/winter plumage)
 - Plumage. It was an all black bird with slight sheen – absolutely no rufous feather edges.
 - Male (summer/breeding plumage)
 - Molt/time-of-year. A Rusty Blackbird should not be in full summer plumage in December
 - Feather wear. The feathers of a Rusty Blackbird, if in breeding plumage at this time of year, would be in pristine condition (which I did not see in this bird).
 - Plumage. It was an all black bird with slight sheen, some iridescence seen and absolutely no rufous feather edges.”

It appears that we all may have to start going a little deeper into our own analyses of Rusty Blackbird sightings.

Bird Populations in Western New York State: Insights from the Annual B.O.S. Counts

Robert L. DeLeon

Recently the Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State [McGowan and Corwin 2008] was published, giving an informative picture of the geographical distribution of the breeding birds in New York State. However, this is only one view of the population of birds in the region. The atlas does not really tell much about the actual bird populations themselves. Each positive atlas block could indicate the presence of only one or two birds of the particular species or it could represent thousands. The authors of the atlas make comparisons with breeding bird survey point counts [Sauer, Hines and Fallon 2008] which can be more closely tied to actual populations. However, there is even considerable controversy in the literature on how to derive populations from the breeding bird survey data [Confer, Hager and Lahr 2008]. The Buffalo Ornithological Society (B.O.S.) conducts annual counts that provide another complementary view of the bird population. They basically provide a sample of all of the birds present in the B.O.S. territory on a given day in April, May or October. Table 1 compares some of the atlas geographical data in region 1 with averaged values of the Annual May Count for six selected species. Atlas region 1 overlaps closely with the New York State portion of the BOS territory. There are obviously some similarities and some differences. The strong increases and decreases in the atlas data correlate with strong increases and decreases in the May count data. The magnitudes of the changes are roughly similar. However, there is little correspondence between the number of blocks recorded for the atlas and the average number of birds observed on the May count. Plots of the April, May and October data for each individual species can give us an even more detailed history of each species.

Table 1. Comparison of Atlas region 1 data with the BOS May count data for selected species

Species	1 st Atlas block s	2 nd Atlas blocks	% atlas change	May 80-85	May 00-05	% May change
Bald Eagle	2	39	+1,850	0.33	12.16	+3,586
Carolina Wren	14	134	+857	1.0	22.16	+2,116
D. C. Cormorant	0	10	∞	14.16	2228.33	+15,637
Red-headed Woodpecker	132	36	-72	29.16	19.00	-35
Vesper Sparrow	119	65	-45	15.83	4.33	-73
Blue-winged Teal	74	26	-64	59.16	26.16	-56

One advantage that the BOS counts have is the potential to define some single measurement parameters that represent the entire bird population as

a whole. Three such different measures of the May count are: 1) the overall number of birds observed, 2) the species richness (number of species observed) and 3) the species diversity index. Figure 1. shows the total individuals observed each year on the May count from 1965-2008. The trend line for all of these plots is a Lowess regression with the parameter $f=0.5$. This gives a smooth damped regression. Other higher or lower values of f that are typically used would give a smoother or a more jagged appearance to the regression line but would not change the basic conclusions stated below. Clearly the trend from 1980-85 to 2000-05 is upward. However, it is not clear if changes in the collection of the count data, for example an increase in the effort, or actual population changes are the cause of this trend. Figure 2. shows a plot of the species richness for each year of the May count from 1965-2008. It also shows an upward trend in going from 1980-85 to 2000-05 with the same caution as to the origin of the trend. Finally in Figure 3, the Shannon diversity index (H') [Weaver and Shannon 1949; Shannon 1948] is plotted and defined. The Shannon diversity index is a measure of the diversity of the bird population. For example, it can be intuitively recognized that a bird population that has ten birds each of ten species is more diverse than one that has one bird each of nine species and 91 starlings, even though they both have the same number of individuals and the same number of species. For the first case, the Shannon diversity index would be its maximum value and for the second its minimum value. The diversity index has the advantage that it is not directly dependent on the count effort. The trend of the diversity index is clearly downward in going from 1980-85 to 2000-05, although there is considerable scatter in the data. From a mathematical viewpoint, this trend would indicate increases in the more populous species at the expense of some of the rarer species. Clearly the B.O.S. counts can provide a wealth of information about the local bird populations that is not available from any other source.

Total Individuals

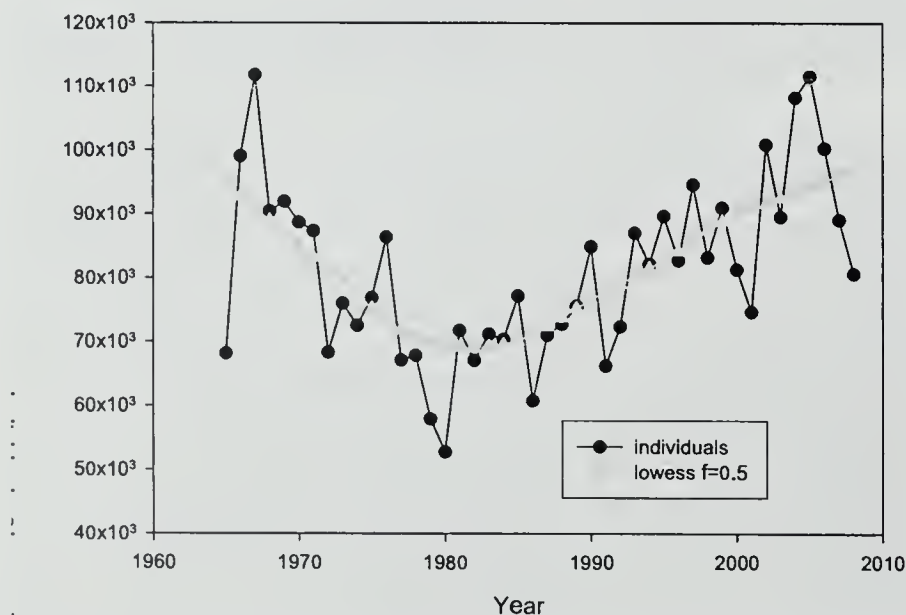


Figure 1. Total individuals observed on the May count for 1965-2008.

Species Richness

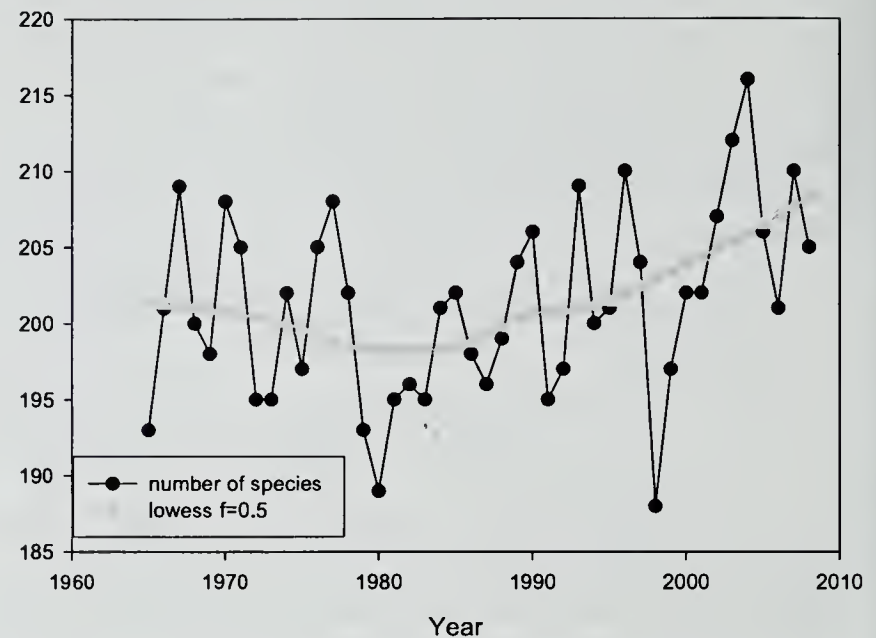


Figure 2. Species richness for the May count 1965-2008.

May Count Diversity Index

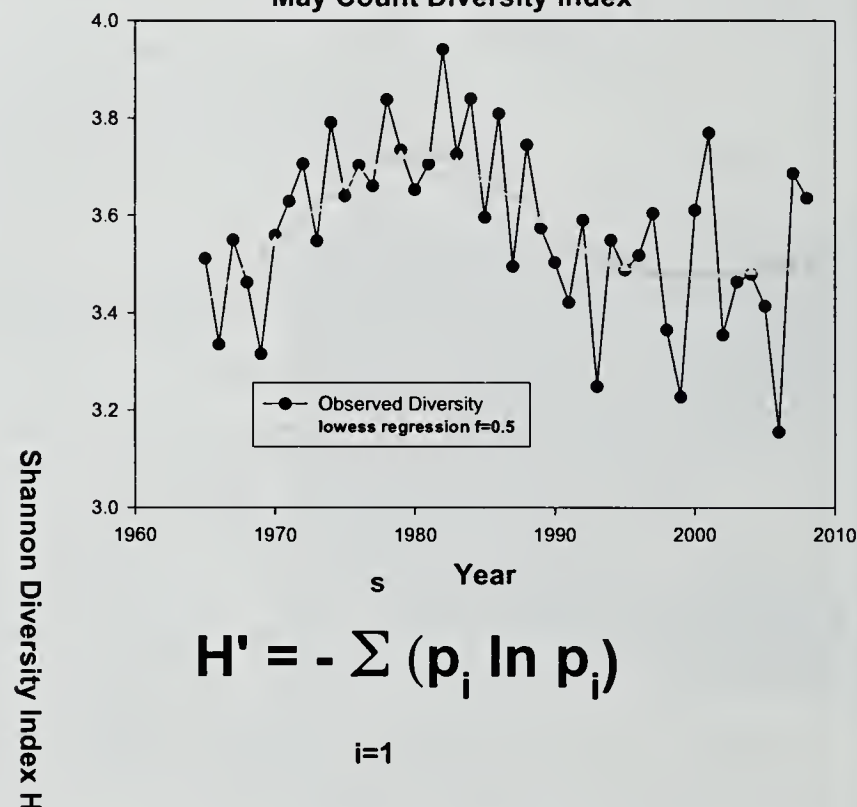


Figure 3. Shannon diversity index (H') for the May count 1965-2008. Here s is the number of species, N is the number of individuals, n_i is the number of individuals of the i th species and p_i is the proportion of the population of the i th species (n_i/N).

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NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (8th Edition - Revised 2009) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for the species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

* = First record for the year.

F - First record for the migration.

L - Last record for the migration.

(f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of young.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PDBA - Indicates previously documented breeding area

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Ave., Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com

<u>Species</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Snow Goose	5	1 bl	Oakfield	Watson
"	5	1 wh	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
* <u>Ross's Goose</u>	5	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	D'Anna et al
Cackling Goose	5	5	Oakfield	Watson
"	27	1	Porter	D'Anna
"	27	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Fox
Canada Goose	5	10000	Oakfield	Watson
Brant	6	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Johnston, Dix
Mute Swan	18	2	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	20	2	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
<u>Trumpeter Swan</u>	17	1	Oak Orchard R. in Waterport	Watson, Lazarczyk
Tundra Swan	6	238	Fort Erie (Ont)	Jacklin, Seburn et al
"	11	14	Colden	J Landau
"	12	1	Sheridan	Neveu
"	16; 23	15; 317	Beaver I. SP	Hess; Sharon
"	22	200	West River, Grand I.	Lazarczyk
Gadwall	2	4	Cuba Lake	Watson
"	5	8	Dayton	Mitchell
"	6	114	Fort Erie (Ont)	Jacklin, Seburn et al
"	23	32	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
American Black Duck	5	26	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	12	35	Strawberry I.	Watson
Northern Shoveler	5	7	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	5	2	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
"	6	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	12	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Northern Pintail	5	14	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	27	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Fox
"	30	1	Lewiston	Pawlicki et al
Green-winged Teal	2	2	Cuba Lake	Watson
"	13	1	Queenston (Ont)	D'Anna, Potter
"	14	4	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Neveu
Redhead	12, 20	22, 132	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
"	27	19	Porter	Morgante
"	29	5	Rich Marina	Hess
King Eider	5	1	Sturgeon Pt.	Pawlicki, Wheeler, Gordon
Surf Scoter	5	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	6	1	Wilson	D'Anna
White-winged Scoter	20	3	Dunkirk Harbor	Yoerg

<u>Species</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Black Scoter	6	5	Wilson	D'Anna
"	21	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Pawlicki
Long-tailed Duck	17	7	Pt. Breeze	Watson
"	18	22	Carlton	Beattie, Hartwig, Dart
"	31	300	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki, Wheeler
<u>Barrow's Goldeneye</u>	16	1	Pt. Breeze	Pawlicki
Hooded Merganser	2; 9	72; 100	Cuba Lake	Watson; Lazarczyk
"	5	72	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	14, 28	86, 54	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
Ruddy Duck	5	242	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	14	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Neveu
"	20, 22	2, 2	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Wild Turkey	4	1	Buffalo	Yoerg
Red-throated Loon	5	1	Silver Creek	Pawlicki, Wheeler
"	6, 19	40, 167	Wilson	D'Anna et al
"	27	1	Porter	Morgante
Common Loon	19	12	Wilson	D'Anna et al
"	27	4	Porter	Morgante
"	31	1	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki
Pied-billed Grebe	20	1	Niagara Falls (ON)	Pawlicki, Horton
Horned Grebe	5	100	Derby to Barcelona	Pawlicki, Wheeler
Red-necked Grebe	6, 19	1, 2	Wilson	D'Anna
D.-crested Cormorant	14	215	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson, Pawlicki, Neveu
Great Blue Heron	12	18	Strawberry I.	Watson
"	14; 23	11; 17	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson; Neveu
Bald Eagle	4	2 ad	Carrollton	Baird
"	5	2 ad + n	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	5	2 ad	Dayton	Mitchell
"	5	3	Silver Creek to Dunkirk	Pawlicki, Wheeler
"	14	1 imm	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
"	22	1	Attica Reservoir	Pawlicki, Mitchell
Northern Harrier	5	2	Dunkirk Airport	Neveu
"	7	1	South Dayton	Neveu
"	27	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Northern Goshawk	<u>28</u>	1 ad	Wethersfield	Junkin
Red-shouldered Hawk	3, 5, 6	1	Orchard Park	M Zebehazy
"	21	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Litwin, Watson
"	27	1	Shelby	Pawlicki
Rough-legged Hawk	27	1	Porter	D'Anna et al
Merlin	2	1	Elma	Morgante
"	23	1	Niagara Falls	Pawlicki, Watson
"	31	1	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki, Wheeler
Peregrine Falcon	1	2	Newstead	Coniglio, Light
"	14	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Neveu
"	30	2 ad	N. Grand I. bridge	Pawlicki
American Coot	5	78	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	14	68	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
<u>American Avocet</u>	12 - 23	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	12, 28	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Lazarczyk et al
"	14	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson, Pawlicki
"	31	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Beattie
Little Gull	11; 12	9; 5	Buffalo	Pawlicki; Watson et al
"	23	8	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	J&R Skevington

<u>Species</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	28	2	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki, Wheeler
Black-headed Gull	5	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	D'Anna et al
"	23	1	Niag.-on-the-Lake (Ont)	J&R Skevington
Bonaparte's Gull	11	8000	Buffalo	Pawlicki
"	17	1 leucistic	Whirlpool (Ont)	Iron, McLaughlin et al
"	31	9942	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki, Wheeler
<u>California Gull</u>	5, 23	1 3 rd -cycle	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	D'Anna et al
"	23	1 3 rd -cycle	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	Watson et al
"	30	1 3 rd -cycle	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	Pawlicki et al
Herring Gull	2	1875	Cuba Lake	Pawlicki, Watson
Iceland Gull	2	1 imm	Cuba Lake	Pawlicki, Watson et al
"	5; 23	15; 12	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	D'Anna et al; Watson
Lesser Black-b. Gull	2	3 ad	Cuba Lake	Watson, Pawlicki
"	5	5	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	D'Anna, Guthrie et al
"	5; 23	14; 7	Niagara Falls (Ont)	D'Anna et al; Watson
"	20 - 21	10	Goat I.	Pawlicki, Watson
Glaucous Gull	2	1 imm	Cuba Lake	Pawlicki, Watson
"	23	3	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson et al
"	26	1	Orchard Park	Pawlicki, Horton
Great Black-b. Gull	14	357	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Neveu
Black-leg. Kittiwake	5	1 juv	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Potter, D'Anna et al
Tern species	<u>13</u>	1	Grand Island	Kester
Snowy Owl	14F	1	Wainfleet (Ont)	L&R Goodridge
"	27; 31	1	Somerset	Wood; Watson et al
Barred Owl	29	1	Carrollton	Baird
Long-eared Owl	27	8	Porter	D'Anna et al
"	27	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Fox
Short-eared Owl	17	1	Niagara Falls Air Base	Pawlicki
"	27	2	Shelby	Fox
"	30	5	Cambria	Pawlicki, Rosenberg et al
N. Saw-whet Owl	27	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Fox
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	12	1	Bethany	Beattie
Northern Shrike	3, 4	1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	5	1	Irving	Pawlicki, Wheeler
"	5	1	Dunkirk Airport	Neveu
"	7	1	Bennington	Mitchell
"	20	1 imm	Wethersfield	Junkin
"	26	1	Dayton	Mitchell
"	27	1	Porter	Morgante
Common Raven	27	14	Allegany SP	Baird
"	31	1	Colden	J&K Landau
Horned Lark	12, 23	25, 35	Bethany	Beattie
Carolina Wren	13	2	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	17	1	Shelby	Watson, Lazarczyk
"	18, 23	1, 1	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	26	2	Orchard Park	Pawlicki, Horton
"	27	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Pawlicki
Winter Wren	14	1	Dunkirk Airport	Pawlicki, Neveu
"	30	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Pawlicki, Pittaway et al
Eastern Bluebird	12	1	Dunkirk Airport	Neveu
"	26	4	Bethany	Beattie
Hermit Thrush	25	1	Buffalo	Humann
Gray Catbird	26	1	Beaver Meadow Aud C	Junkin

<u>Species</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
European Starling	17	30000	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Iron, Troy et al
Bohemian Waxwing	16F	2	Carlton	Pawlicki
Yellow-r. Warbler	27	3	Porter	D'Anna
Chipping Sparrow	28-31	1	Shelby	Moriens
"	30	1	Wethersfield	Junkin
Vesper Sparrow	<u>27</u>	1	South Dayton	Mitchell
Fox Sparrow	11	1	Colden	J&K Landau
"	20	1	Tonawanda	Rising et al
Swamp Sparrow	19	1	Carrollton	Baird
"	20	1	Tonawanda	Rising et al
"	26	4	Orchard Park	Morgante
"	27	1	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki, Watson
"	27	7	Oak Orchard WMA	Fox
White-cr. Sparrow	16, 28	1, 1	Bethany	Beattie
Snow Bunting	19; 24	50; 392	Sheldon	Mitchell; Junkin
"	27	190; 350	Porter	Morgante; D'Anna
Red-w. Blackbird	22	2	Bethany	Beattie
"	27	1	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki, Watson
"	27	<u>235</u>	Ransomville	Morgante
"	27	<u>147</u>	Oak Orchard WMA	Fox
Rusty Blackbird	27	2	Oak Orchard WMA	Fox
* <u>Brewer's Blackbird</u>	27	1	Shelby	Fox
Common Grackle	27	1	Ransomville	Morgante
"	27	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Fox
"	28	1	Salamanca	Baird
Brown-head. Cowbird	14	1	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	15 - 31	67 max	Alden	Coniglio
"	17	1	Ridgeway	Watson, Lazarczyk
"	27	120	Ransomville	Morgante
"	27	53	Porter	D'Anna
Purple Finch	19	1	Wilson	Potter
American Goldfinch	20	46	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson, Litwin
Species, subspecies and named hybrids previously recorded this year				287
Species, subspecies and named hybrids recorded this month (plus addenda) 2 + 2				004
Total for the year 2009:				<u>291</u>

Statisticians Note: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please advise us of any errors in the Noteworthy Records.

<u>Addenda (2009):</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Bufflehead	Nov 13	2250	Buffalo Harbor	Gordon
* <u>Yellow Rail</u>	Apr 26	1 inj.	West Seneca	Hawk Creek
Sandhill Crane	<u>Mar 14</u>	1	Napoli	Ermer et al
<u>Laughing Gull</u>	Aug 21	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Wheeler
* <u>Barn Owl</u>	Dec 10	1 inj.	Hamburg	Hawk Creek
American Pipit	<u>Jan 18</u>	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Wheeler
<u>Hoary Redpoll</u>	Feb 28	2	Holland	Newton
<u>Addenda (2008):</u>				
Franklin's Gull	<u>Dec 21</u>	1	Niagara Falls	Landon, Yonker
* <u>Western Kingbird</u>	Aug 30	1	Port Colborne (Ont)	Adamo

Statisticians Note Regarding Addenda and the Year (2009) in Review

Mike Morgante

There were some interesting records in the 2009 addenda, including two new species recorded for the year (2009), Yellow Rail and Barn Owl.

A Yellow Rail appeared in a yard along Borden Road in West Seneca on April 26, 2009. Apparently injured or sick, the rail remained for three more days before it was captured. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) was contacted and they advised to bring the bird to a rehabilitator. The rail was then brought to Hawk Creek. Matt Zymanek, the operations manager for Hawk Creek, indicated that they received the bird too late to save it. He told me that since Yellow Rails eat 25% of their body weight each day, it didn't have much chance after three days. Matt provided photos for B.O.S. This is the first documented in the B.O.S Study Area since Kayo Roy had a brief sighting at Port Weller on May 3, 1995. It is only the eighth record in the noteworthy records database (1964-present). Many thanks to Connie Adams (NYSDEC) who informed Willie D'Anna about the rail being taken to Hawk Creek, to Willie for informing me, and to Matt Zymanek for providing the photos and information.

In providing the photos and information about the Yellow Rail, Matt Zymanek also mentioned that an injured Barn Owl was brought to Hawk Creek in December from Hamburg. As the owl was not banded, it was not part of the Hawk Creek release program, and considered a wild bird. Barn Owls have become increasingly rare in recent decades, so this is welcome news that one was living in Hamburg.

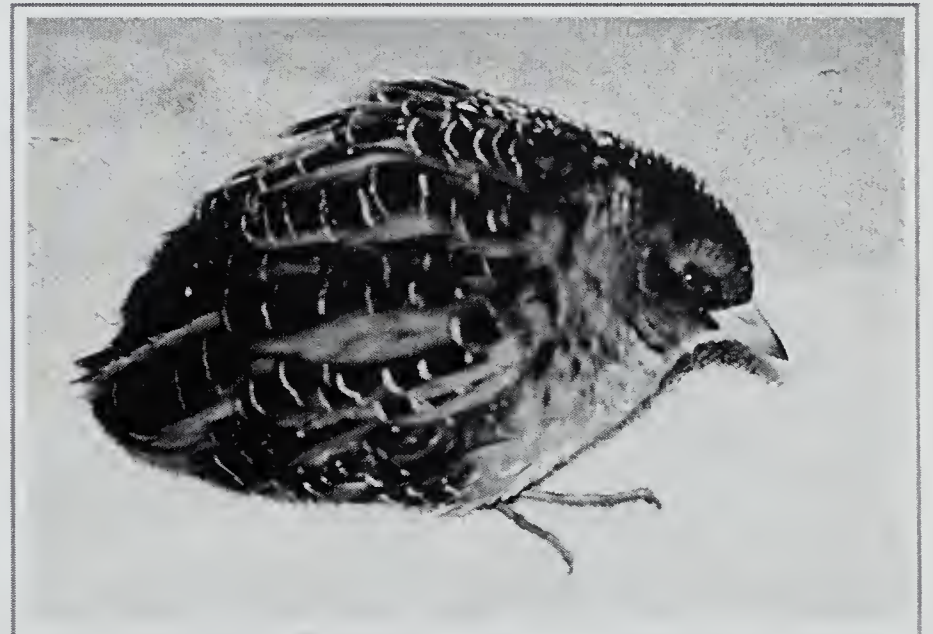
David Gordon's count of 2,250 Bufflehead is surpassed by only three other higher counts in the noteworthy records database. Mike Ermer documented (and photographed) a Sandhill Crane that he and five others saw in the Town of Napoli in March. David Wheeler photographed an American Pipit at Dunkirk Harbor on January 18, 2009, which now represents the latest winter sighting on record and only third January record. Chris Newton produced some excellent photos of two Hoary Redpolls visiting his feeder in Holland in February. David Wheeler's Laughing Gull report was accidentally missed during the compilation and review of August sightings and his interesting find is included in the addenda. There were two records added for 2008 including a Franklin's Gull observed during the Buffalo CBC at Niagara Falls by Lynne Landon et al. a Western Kingbird in Port Colborne, Ontario documented and photographed by Alfred Adamo.

The 2009 species, subspecies, and named hybrids total stands at 291 species, which matches the total from the previous two years, except that the 2008 list goes up one to 292 with the addition of the Western Kingbird in this year's addenda. The only species on the B.O.S. field checklist that were not recorded in 2009 include: Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope, Red Phalarope, Franklin's Gull, Kentucky Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Henslow's Sparrow. Very rare

species with accepted records in 2009 included: Brown Pelican, White Ibis (2nd ever), Yellow Rail, Mew Gull, Boreal Owl, and Spotted Towhee (2nd ever).

Tim Baird and I would like to thank everyone that submitted sightings in this past year. Your contributions make up the noteworthy records and the ornithological record of the Society. We are grateful for the work that Bruce Chilton contributes as the Compiler; he spends many hours each month compiling the sightings from your letters and e-mails. We'd also like to recognize the assistance that Willie D'Anna provided at our request on a few challenging verification report reviews.

We reviewed 220 verification reports in 2009, approximately 70 of which were multiple reports for the same bird or birds. Approximately 90% of the verification reports that we reviewed were accepted, including multiple verification reports for the same bird (e.g. five reports for the same American Avocet at Dunkirk Harbor in December). If you remove the multiple reports, it was approximately 87% acceptance. The primary reason for reports not accepted was the description lacked enough detail to confidently eliminate all other species. Photographs are not a requirement to submit a verification report; however, they are extremely useful for documentation support. Birders are encouraged to take and submit photographs along with their verification reports. The photos remain in the electronic archives along with files or scans of all verification reports.





March - May Calendar & Announcements

Buffalo-Niagara Regions Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

Compiler for October Count Needed: After many years of service, Mike Hamilton is retiring as the Compiler of our April and October Counts. Contact Tom O'Donnell at 284-5569.

Mar. 1 - May 15: Hamburg Hawk Watch at Lakeside Memorial Park in Hamburg (off Camp Rd. between Routes 5 & 20). Generally 10 AM - 3 PM weather permitting. Visitors are welcome. Contact Jim Landau for additional info (941-3869 or kjlandau@localnet.com).

Mar. 27: Saturday. Lake Ontario Plain Field Trip for early spring migrants. Leader: Willie D'Anna 751-3637 or dannapotter@roadrunner.com. Meet at 8 a.m. at Tops Market in Wright's Corners. This is on the east side of Route 78 at Route 104, north of Lockport.

Apr. 3, Saturday. Owl Prowl at 8:00 p.m. Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. Meet at Refuge Headquarters, 1101 Casey Rd, Basom, NY (located between Routes 77 & 63 in Alabama, NY). Pre-registration Required. Please call the refuge office (585-948-5445). More information available from the refuge office or <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/iroquois/Iroquois/Observations.html>

Apr. 9, Friday. Owl Prowl Owl Prowl at 7:30 p.m. Dr. Victor Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve (77 Honorine Dr. [south of Como Park Blvd.] in Depew). Pre-Registration Required. Please call 683-5959. Information also available at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/education/1969.html>

Apr. 10, Saturday. Owl Prowl, Preceded by Live Owl Program with Paul Fehringer. at 8:00 p.m. Beaver Meadow Audubon Nature Preserve. Meet at the Beaver Meadow Nature Center (1600 Welch Rd, N. Java). Preregistration Required. More information available from the center (800-377-1520) or <http://www.buffaloudubon.com/>

Apr. 11: April Bird Count: Welcome to our new April Count compiler, Holly Sweeney; holran171@verizon.net. All BOS members are encouraged to participate.

Apr. 14: Wednesday. BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Heidi Kennedy, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Senior Wildlife Biologist from Region 8 will discuss "Tonawanda WMA, Oak Orchard WMA and John White Grasslands - Great Places

to Observe Birds." Afterwards Nate Grosse of the University of Brockport will present a discussion of his Master's Thesis titled "Grassland Birds and Vegetation at the John White Wildlife Management Area."

Apr. 18: Sunday. Braddock Bay Trip. This annual join BOS-RBA trip to the Hawk Watch and other Monroe County birding hot spots will be led by Bob and Sue Spahn. Meet at 9:30 AM at the Braddock Bay Parking Lot. Take route 18 to the Lake Ontario State Parkway, just before the entrance the Lakeside Beach State Park. Travel east on the parkway to the exit for East Mantou Road/Braddock Bay Park. Turn left onto East Manitou Road, cross over the parkway. The entrance to Braddock Bay Park is the first left after turning onto East Manitou Road. When you come to a "T" in the road, turn right and follow the park road. The hawk watch platform is ahead on the left

Apr. 28: Vaughan Lecture at 7:00 PM in the Auditorium of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Dr. Jerome Jackson, Professor of Ecological Sciences and former Whitaker Eminent Scholar in Science at Florida Gulf Coast University will present the lecture "Behavior, Ecology, Conservation and Unique Adaptations of Woodpeckers." The presentation will include a discussion of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker and the specimens of this bird in the Buffalo Museum of Science's collection. A buffet dinner with a birding theme - a tradition with the Vaughan Lecture precedes lecture. Proceeds benefit education programs at Tifft Nature Preserve. Time: 5:30 PM. Tickets: \$25. Pre-registration required before Monday, April 19, Contact: Erin at 716.896.5200 x385

May 1: Saturday. Tifft Nature Preserve for early migrants and warblers. Leader: Chris Newton (Cnewton2@roadrunner.com 716-225-8055). Meet at 7:30 AM in the Tifft N. P. parking lot (off Furman Blvd.). This is a half-day trip.

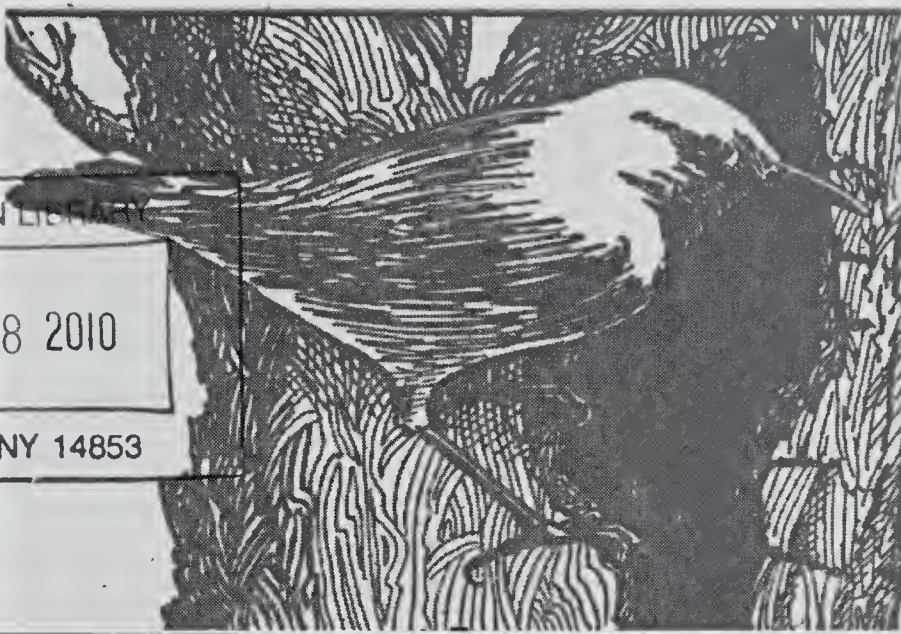
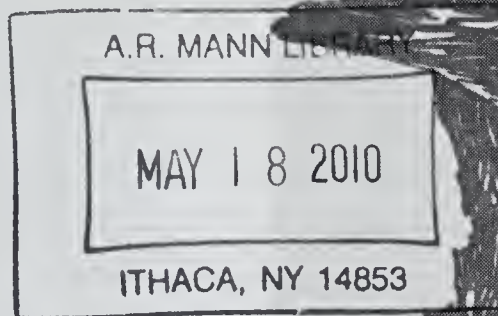
May 12: Wednesday. BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Connie Adams, Senior Wildlife Biologist of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, will discuss Western New York's Peregrine Falcons.

May 16: Sunday. May Bird Count. Coordinator: Robert DeLeon (626-0325 or rdeleon@yahoo.com). All BOS members are encouraged to participate in the May Count

May 22: Saturday. BOS Sanctuary Field Trip. Meet at 9:30 AM at 3042 Love Road Grand Island for this half-day trip for spring migrants. Wear boots. Leader: Jerry Lazarczyk 716-773-7452 or lazarcg1@netzero.com

The Prothonotary

BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Volume 76, No. 2 February 2010

THE MONTH: January

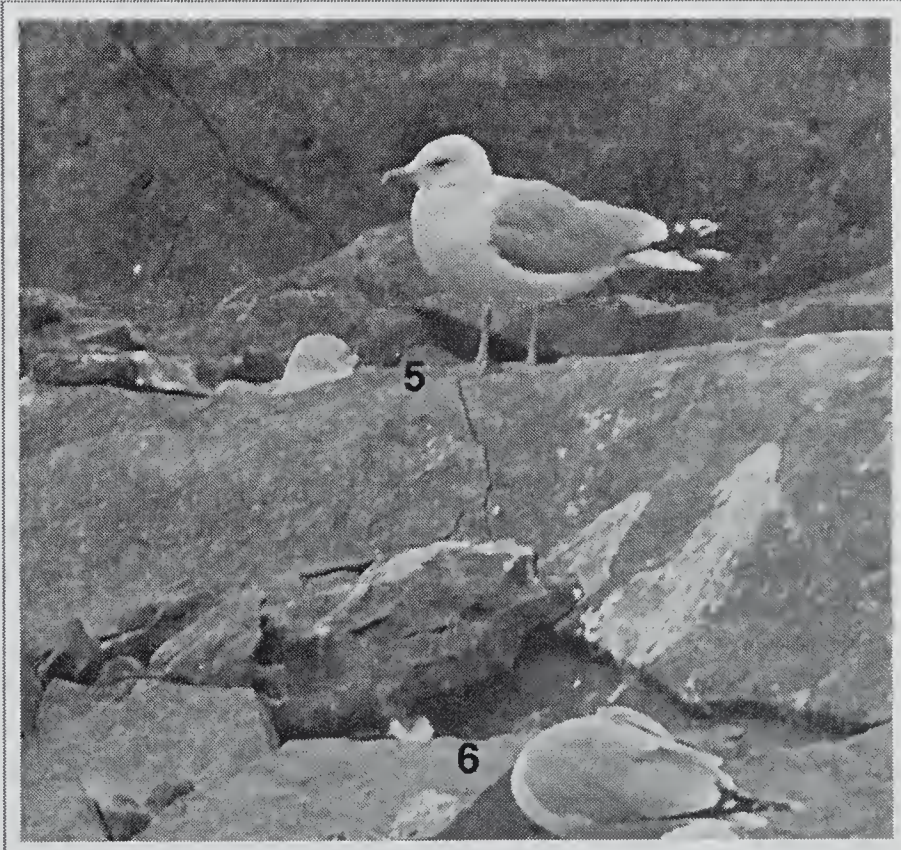
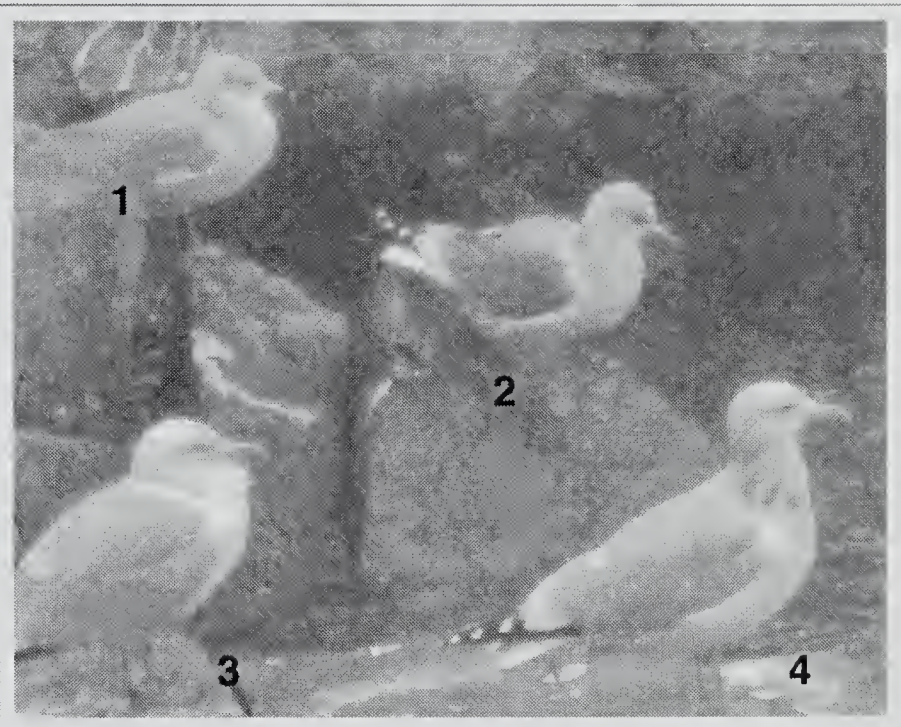
Jim Pawlicki

The National Weather Service summarized January 2010 as "a seasonable January for Western New York," with plenty of cold snowy weather, but including a rather long tranquil period which made the harsh winter weather quite tolerable. Overall, January averaged out with a mean temperature of 23.2 degrees Fahrenheit, 1.3 degrees below normal. Precipitation was just slightly above the norm at 3.19 inches, while the snowfall totaled 35.6 inches, 9.5 inches above normal. Lake Erie remained open to the 10th when the water temperature fell to 32 degrees, allowing the first major patches of shore and harbor ice to form and causing the eastern basin to ice over by the end of the month. The Niagara River and Lake Ontario remained open as usual although with areas of shore ice forming on the latter by mid-month.

As expected in January, tens of thousands of waterfowl gathered at the source of the Niagara River at Lake Erie and along the upper Niagara with counts of 10,000 Greater Scaup, 500 Redhead, and 10,000 Canvasback from Buffalo Harbor, Fort Erie (Ont.), and Grand Island, respectively. Viewing the large waterfowl flocks from the West Side Rowing Club in Buffalo on the 30th, Dave Wheeler and I found an interesting drake *Aythya* hybrid that appeared to be a Redhead x Lesser Scaup or Redhead x Ring-necked Duck. Other rare waterfowl found during the month included two King Eiders in Buffalo Harbor on the 23rd, as well as the continuing drake Barrow's Goldeneye at Point Breeze on Lake Ontario. Several observations totaling 51 Horned Grebes, 5 Red-necked Grebes, and 11 Red-throated Loons made by Willie D'Anna on the 23rd-24th from various points along the Lake Ontario shore in Niagara and Orleans counties were notable for late January.

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Jim Landau
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Bruce Chilton
- 20 **Calendar**

Bald Eagles continue to become a common sight along the Niagara River and Lake Erie shores during the winter months. Five



(Top) Ring-billed (1), Mew "Short-billed" (2) and Herring Gulls (3 & 4) photographed by Jean Iron at Devil's Hole State Park on January 1. (Bottom) Adult Mew "Common" (5) and Ring-billed (6) Gulls photographed by Jim Pawlicki at Devil's Hole State Park on January 7.

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locations at Buffalo, Goat Island, and the North Grand Island Bridge, along with an observation at Dunkirk Harbor on the 14th. Single Merlins were observed throughout the month at Delaware Park in Buffalo, South Buffalo, East Aurora, and Fort Erie (Ont.). Two notable raptor sightings included an immature Northern Goshawk observed by Brad Carlson, Jeanne Skelly, and Doug Daniels at Wilson-Tuscarora State Park on the 20th, and a Red-shouldered Hawk observed by Terry Mosher in Pomfret on the 23rd.

Amazing was the American Avocet at Dunkirk Harbor that lingered into January, having been initially found at the west end of the harbor on December 12, 2009 by Dave Neveu (detailed in the January 2010 issue of *The Prothonotary*). Observations made on the 1st by Jerry Lazarczyk and 2nd by Fran Rew represent the first January records of this species in the BOS Study Area and New York State. A Killdeer reported in Pomfret by Mosher on the 9th was the only other shorebird species observed during the month.

The region's gull excitement occurred early in the month with two Mew Gulls, one of the North American subspecies *L.c. brachyrhynchus* and the other the Eurasian subspecies *L.c. canus*, observed only a week apart at Devil's Hole State Park on the lower Niagara River. On the 1st while scanning the "roosting rocks" located at the base of the gorge, Jean Iron, Willie D'Anna, and Betsy Potter found and photographed a Mew Gull that they identified as the North American subspecies often referred to as "Short-billed Gull." In his report, D'Anna noted several features such as

separate observations of up to 11 individuals were sighted from lakeshore sites, in addition to observations from Chautauqua Lake at Celeron and Alexander. Rough-legged Hawks continued to be a rare sight this winter with the month's only observation being a single individual observed by Doug Beattie in Yates on the 10th. In the same category as Bald Eagle, both Merlins and Peregrine Falcons are continuing to increase as year-round occurrences, especially near Buffalo and the Niagara River. Observations of wintering Peregrines were made near nesting

"smudgy head streaking extending to the breast," an "unmarked yellow bill," and a "medium gray mantle similar in shade to California Gull," all of which supported the subspecific identification. Returning to the lower Niagara River on the 6th, Dean DiTomasso, Jean Iron, and Kevin McLaughlin found and photographed a different Mew Gull that was determined to be of the Eurasian subspecies also known as "Common Gull." The bird was then relocated the following day and documented by several observers from both sides of the river. Of the eleven previous records of Mew Gull in the BOS archives, seven were determined to be *L.c. brachyrhynchus* and one *L.c. canus*, while the other three were not conclusively identified to subspecies, although one showed features consistent with *L.c. canus*. The observations made on January 6th and 7th therefore represent the 2nd accepted record of *L.c. canus* for the BOS Study Area, and if accepted by the Ontario Bird Records Committee would represent the first accepted record of the subspecies for the province of Ontario.

Owls were scarce this month with the only record of a Snowy Owl being a cooperative individual that spent the month in the town of Somerset. NYSDEC biologist Chuck Rosenberg continued his winter research efforts trapping and banding Short-eared Owls in Niagara County with maximums of 4 and 6 individuals observed in Cambria and Hartland, respectively. Doug Beattie recorded single Northern Saw-whet Owls in Bethany on the 15th and 19th, being the month's only records of this often undetected wintering species.

Other notable species and high counts from the month included 1,345 Great Black-backed Gulls at Dunkirk Harbor on the 5th, two Bohemian Waxwings in Newfane on the 20th, a Chipping Sparrow from the 1st-29th in Medina, and flocks of up to 320 Red-winged Blackbirds and 350 Brown-headed Cowbirds from Porter and Clarence, respectively. I would like to thank Mike Morgante and Bill Watson for their comments and suggestions.

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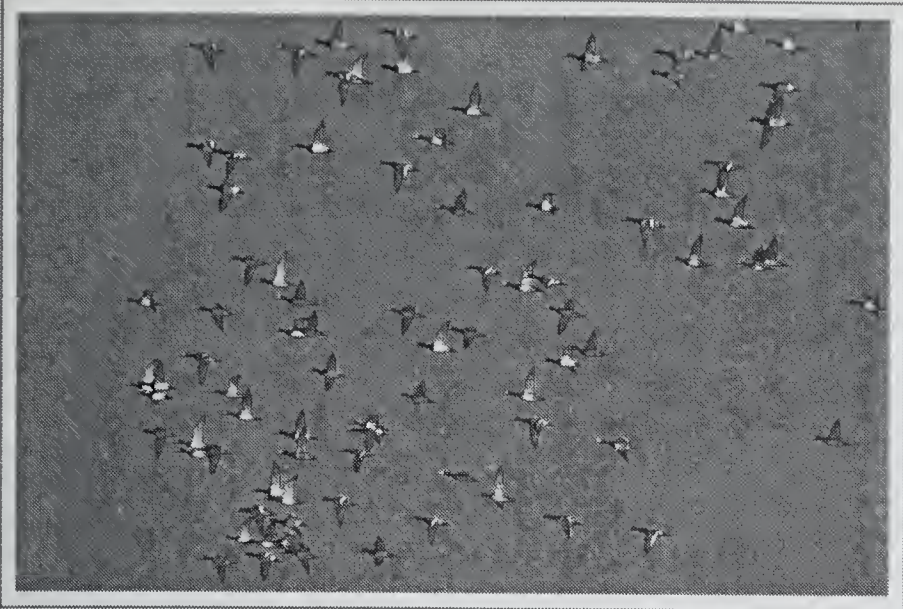
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January 2010 Waterfowl Count Summary

Jim Landau

Overview

The New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA) conducts an annual waterfowl count each January throughout the state's 10 assigned regions, to assist the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) in monitoring long-term population changes, bird conservation planning and environmental reviews. The Buffalo Ornithological Society has been participating in this effort since 1955, making this the 56th count for the BOS. The count area includes the Niagara River and adjacent waters of Lakes Erie and Ontario, and any productive open interior bodies of water. The 9-day count period begins on the Saturday just before the Martin Luther King holiday, which is always the third Monday in January. Thus, the count period this year was January 16-24, with the target date of Sunday, January 17. Results of the statewide count will be published in "The Kingbird" (NYSOA's quarterly publication) and will also be posted on the NYSOA website at: <http://www.nybirds.org/ProjWaterfowl.htm>

Species Compilation

The table on right lists the species observed on this count and their accumulated totals. Species without comments showed no particular trend worth noting. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the sections are given in parentheses.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Canada Goose	3,411	
Mute Swan	17	(A, B, J)
Tundra Swan	318	(F, G, J)
Wood Duck	2	(E, K)
Gadwall	3	(F)
American Wigeon	1	(E)
American Black Duck	112	
Mallard	4,529	
Mallard x Black Duck	1	(F)
Green-winged Teal	1	(R)
Canvasback	13,806	
Redhead	1,201	Record high
Ring-necked Duck	225	Record high
Greater Scaup	5,764	
Lesser Scaup	50	
Scaup species	19,200	
King Eider	2	(E)
White-winged Scoter	420	
Black Scoter	1	(F)
Long-tailed Duck	1,408	
Bufflehead	6,672	Record high
Common Goldeneye	6,177	
Hooded Merganser	90	
Common Merganser	1,454	
Red-breasted Merganser	1,816	
Ruddy Duck	5	(G, I, J)
Red-throated Loon	6	(A, B)
Pied-billed Grebe	8	(I, J)
Horned Grebe	56	Record high
Red-necked Grebe	4	(A, B)
Double-crested Cormorant	200	(I) Record high
American Coot	95	
TOTAL OF ABOVE	67,055	2nd highest count

Weather

January started out unusually dismal, even for Buffalo in winter. Twelve of the first thirteen days of the month were cold and averaged 8 degrees below normal. However, thirteen of the next fourteen days (which encompassed the count period) were mild but overcast, averaging 8 degrees above normal, owing to a rather dramatic pattern change to a zonal "El Nino" type flow. This period was capped off by the most notable event of the month, a drenching rainfall on the 24-25th which brought one to two inches across the area, resulting in some flooding along area streams and creeks. Lake Erie fell to 32 degrees by the 10th but the eastern basin stayed open through the month.

Notes

Rather than an attempt to tally the highest numbers

of individuals over the nine days of the count period, the practical goal of this count is to provide a snapshot of waterfowl numbers in the region, ideally on one day. Thus, the mid-month window of mild weather afforded the great majority of counters to get out on the target date of Sunday, January 17. This greatly reduced the potential of under- and over-counting on bodies of water like the Niagara River, where huge rafts of ducks can easily shift from the American side to the Canadian side with any significant change of wind direction.

Supplemental reports were added to the results where warranted. Such sightings included 2 King Eiders (1 female, 1 male), 1 Black Scoter (female), and several grebes and loons that would otherwise not have been tallied.

Also noteworthy was the male Green-winged Teal found in South Park behind the Erie County Botanical Gardens.

A review of the full 56 year count record for our region reveals that many species numbers fluctuate with no apparent trending increases or decreases in evidence. For some there are simply not enough individuals tallied to be significant. However, a few species do stand out.

Canada Goose continues to show a steady upward climb begun in the mid-70s. Tundra Swan has enjoyed a striking upswing over the past 10 years. American Black Duck continues a steady decline begun in the mid-70s. Mallard, after its dramatic rise to a peak in 2004, has been dropping off slightly over the past few years. Erratic but gradual increases are noted for Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Pied-billed Grebe. Double-crested Cormorants continue to exhibit their dramatic rise which began in 1991.

This year's count of 67,055 individuals displaces last year's total as the second highest in count history (the 2001 count holding the record of 71,801 individuals observed).

Participation in New York's Annual Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey

Although the January Waterfowl Count no longer overlaps with the National Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey, we were asked to report any eagle sightings nonetheless. The DEC, in turn, contributes the combined New York State census to the national Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey, which is now coordinated nationally by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. You can follow the DEC's winter eagle research on the Internet at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/9381.html>

The following Bald Eagle sightings were reported:
1/16/2010 – 1 adult perched on Strawberry Island (Niagara River), 9:05 a.m.

1 adult (or near adult) flying over Niagara River and perched on ice floe on north side of Buckhorn Island State Park, 10:45 a.m. Mike Morgante

1/17/2010 – 1 adult, 1 sub-adult north of Silver Creek, NY on the lakeshore, 11:30 a.m.
David and Debbie Suggs

1/17/2010 – 1 adult flying south between the Peace Bridge and the ice boom, 12 p.m.

1 adult on the ice 1/2 mile south of the ice boom, 1 p.m. (the same individual?) Bill Watson

Acknowledgements

The compiler thanks the following section leaders (in boldface), participants and contributors for their efforts on behalf of this year's January Waterfowl Count:

A. Lake Ontario (Point Breeze to Olcott): **Tom O'Donnell**, Susan O'Donnell

B. Lake Ontario (Olcott to Fort Niagara): **Peter Yoerg**, Barbara Henderson, Willie D'Anna

C. Fort Niagara to Niagara Falls, NY side: **Robert DeLeon**, Donna DeLeon

D. NOTL to Niagara Falls, Canadian side: **Mike Zebehazy**, Doug Happ

E1. Buffalo Harbor to Sheridan Dr., NY side: **John Thill**, Mike Hamilton, Jim Pawlicki, David and Debbie Suggs

E2. Sheridan Dr. to Goat Island: **Gerry Rising**, Mike Galas, Kyle Horton, Ron Hacker

F1. Peace Bridge to Horseshoe Falls: **Lynne Landon**, Terry Yonker, Art Hannah

F2. Jaeger Rocks to Peace Bridge, Canadian side: **Bill Watson**, Jim Pawlicki, David Gordon, Willie D'Anna, Chris Newton, Betsy Potter, Ron Pittaway, Peter Yoerg, Marcie Jacklin, Kevin McLaughlin

G. Grand Island: **Mike Morgante**, Chris Akios

H. Lake Erie (Buffalo Harbor to Silver Creek): **David Suggs**, Deborah Suggs

I. Lake Erie (Silver Creek to PA line): **Fran Rew**, Audrey Horbett

J. Jamestown & Chautauqua Lake: **Bill Seleen**, Tom Simmons, Brian Anderson

K. Allegheny River, Cattaraugus Co. from Olean to Allegheny Reservoir at PA line.): **Tim Baird**, Mike DeSha, Tom LeBlanc

L. Allegany County: not covered this year

M. Batavia, NY: **Gail Seamans**

N & O. Iroquois NWR, Oak Orchard & Tonawanda WMAs: **Ed Ratajczak**

P. Williamsville, Cheektowaga, Lancaster, NY: **Holly Sweeney**, Mike Morgante

Q. Delaware Park, Forest Lawn Cemetery: **Tom Connare**

R. South Park, Cazenovia Park & Creek: **Elizabeth Wells**, James Rozanski

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (8th Edition - Revised 2009) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for the species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

* = First record for the year.

F - First record for the migration.

L - Last record for the migration.

(f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of young.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PV - Indicates Previously Documented

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Ave., Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BCh314159@aol.com

<u>Species</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Mute Swan	1; 7	4; 12	Lewiston	Rew et al; Petherick
"	13	2	Pt. Breeze	Carlson
"	17	5	Wilson Harbor	Sharon
"	31	2	Celeron	Pawlicki, Wheeler
Tundra Swan	1	200	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Rew, Horbett et al
"	4; 24	108; 212	Beaver I. SP	Watson; D&D Suggs
"	5	184	West River, Grand I.	Lazarczyk
"	16	104	Strawberry I.	Watson
"	31	2	Celeron	Pawlicki, Wheeler
Wood Duck	2 - 12	1 - 2	Amherst	Pawlicki
"	17	1	Olean	Baird, DeSha, LeBlanc
Gadwall	1	2	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Rew, Horbett et al
"	31	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Wheeler
American Wigeon	6	30	Niagara Falls	Pawlicki et al
American Black Duck	14	14	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	17	35	Olean	LeBlanc et al
"	17	20	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson et al
Northern Shoveler	31	2	Celeron	Pawlicki, Wheeler
Northern Pintail	2, 3	1	Amherst	Pawlicki
"	21	1	Wilson Harbor	Sharon
"	31	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Wheeler
Green-winged Teal	1	1	Lackawanna	Rew, Horbett et al
Canvasback	9	10000	R. Moses Pkwy	G. Lawrence
"	16	7245	Grand I.	Morgante, Akios
Redhead	11; 12	45; 39	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	17	500	Fort Erie (Ont)	D'Anna, Watson et al
Ring-necked Duck	1	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Rew, Horbett et al
"	5; 6	2; 3	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki; Neveu
"	16	2	Grand I.	Morgante
"	31	2	Celeron	Pawlicki, Wheeler
Greater Scaup	16	5000	La Salle Pk, Bflo.	Morgante, Akios
"	23	10000	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki, Wheeler et al
Lesser Scaup	9	5	R. Moses Pkwy	G. Lawrence
"	10	6	Dunkirk Harbor	Landau, Wojewodzki
"	16	5	Buckhorn I. SP	Morgante, Akios
"	17	1	Olean	LeBlanc et al
Scaup species	17	2200	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson et al
King Eider	23	2	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki, Wheeler et al
Surf Scoter	24	1	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna

<u>Species</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
White-winged Scoter	15; 20	22; 67	Pt. Breeze	Beattie; Daniels
"	16	45	Fort Niagara SP	K Landau, Wojewodzki
"	17	71	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson, D'Anna et al
"	31	3	Buffalo Marina	Newton
Black Scoter	6	1	Niagara Falls	Powell
"	17	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	D'Anna
"	18	1	Pt. Breeze	G. Lawrence
Long-tailed Duck	4; 17	148; 300	Lewiston	Watson; G. Lawrence
"	17	172	Fort Erie (Ont)	D'Anna, Watson et al
Bufflehead	17	5000	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson et al
Common Goldeneye	9	600	R. Moses Pkwy	G. Lawrence
"	17	3950	Fort Erie (Ont)	Gordon, Watson et al
<u>Barrow's Goldeneye</u>	11-23	1	Pt. Breeze	6 observers
Hooded Merganser	4, 18	11, 10	North Tonawanda	Watson
Ruddy Duck	5; 6	2; 2	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki; Neveu
"	16	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Morgante, Akios
"	24	1	Erie Basin Marina	Newton
Red-throated Loon	1	1	Pt. Breeze	Fox et al
"	23	5	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna
"	23	1	Yates	D'Anna
"	24	8	Wilson	D'Anna
"	24	3	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna
Horned Grebe	23	51	Somerset & Yates	D'Anna
Red-necked Grebe	23	3	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna
"	24	2	Wilson	D'Anna
D.-crested Cormorant	4; 10	1; 1	Lewiston	Watson; D'Anna
"	5	45	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki
"	16, 18	1, 2	Motor I.	Watson
"	23	5	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
Great Blue Heron	6, 9	19, 19	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	16, 19	53, 23	Motor I.	Watson
"	19	28	Strawberry I.	Watson
"	24	87	Motor & Strawberry Is.	D&D Suggs
Black-cr. Night-Heron	16	1 imm	Dunkirk Harbor	Hardenburg
Bald Eagle	1; 17	1; 2 ad	Fort Erie (Ont)	Rew et al; Watson et al
"	5	2 ad, 1 imm	Alexander	Beattie, Volpe
"	6	2 ad, 1 juv	Sheridan	Neveu
"	10	1 ad	Queenston (Ont)	D'Anna, Yoerg et al
"	16	1 ad	Strawberry I.	Watson
"	29	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Wheeler
"	30	1 juv	Buffalo	Pawlicki
"	31	1 imm	Celeron	Pawlicki, Wheeler
Northern Goshawk	<u>20</u>	1 imm	Wilson-Tusc. SP	Carlson, Skelly, Daniels
Red-shouldered Hawk	23	1	Pomfret	Mosher
Rough-legged Hawk	10	1	Somerset	Beattie
Merlin	1-31	1	S. Buffalo	Klawinski
"	16	1	East Aurora	Zebehazy
"	17	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Pawlicki, Watson et al
"	20	1	Delaware Park, Bflo.	Humann
Peregrine Falcon	1	2	Buffalo	Rew, Horbett et al
"	10; 17	1; 1	N. Grand I. bridge	Newton; Yoerg et al
"	14	1	Dunkirk	Pawlicki, Neveu
"	30	1 ad	Goat I.	Potter, D'Anna

<u>Species</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
American Coot	9	1	Goat I.	G. Lawrence
"	10	7	Buckhorn I. SP	Sharon
"	12, 16	1	Pt. Breeze	Guthrie et al
"	31	6	Celeron	Wheeler, Pawlicki
Killdeer	9	1	Pomfret	Mosher
<u>American Avocet</u>	1; 2	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Lazarczyk; Rew
Bonaparte's Gull	9	10000	Peace Bridge	D&D Suggs
"	9	7000	Lewiston	G. Lawrence
"	14	1 (leucistic)	Lewiston	Newton
Black-headed Gull	9; 10	1	Lewiston	G. Lawrence; D'Anna
Little Gull	4; 24	1; 2	Lewiston	Watson et al; Potter et al
"	10	3	Niag.-on-the-Lake (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	10	1	Queenston (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	31	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Wheeler
* <u>Mew "Common" Gull</u> (<i>L.c. canus</i>)	6	1	Devils Hole SP	Iron et al
"	7	1	Devils Hole SP	Pawlicki, Watson, Lazarczyk
<u>Mew Gull</u> (<i>L.c. brachyrhynchus</i>)	1	1	Devils Hole SP	D'Anna, Iron et al
Iceland Gull	1	6	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Rew, Horbett et al
"	4, 7; 14	5, 4; 3	Devils Hole SP	Watson, Pawlicki; Newton
"	7	3	Whirlpool SP	Watson, Pawlicki
"	7; 10	19; 12	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	Carlson; Purcell
"	11	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	24	1	Pt. Breeze	Wheeler
"	30	1	Buffalo	Pawlicki
Lesser Black-b. Gull	1	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Rew, Horbett et al
"	4	6	Devils Hole SP	Watson
"	7	5	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	Carlson
"	9	6	Goat I.	G. Lawrence
Glaucous Gull	1	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Rew, Horbett et al
"	5 - 31	1 - 3	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Neveu et al
"	24	1	Niag.-on-the Lake (Ont)	D'Anna, Potter
"	24	1	Pt. Breeze	Wheeler
Great Black-b. Gull	5; 17	<u>1345</u> ; 600	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki; D&D Suggs
Mourning Dove	3	40	Eden (f)	Andrle
Snowy Owl	1 - 31	1	Somerset	Lazarczyk, D'Anna et al
Short-eared Owl	1-29	4-2	Cambria	Rosenburg et al
"	19-29	6	Hartland	Rosenburg et al
Nor. Saw-whet Owl	15, 19	1	Bethany	Beattie et al
Red-headed Wdpckr.	18	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Carlson
Northern Shrike	1	1	Pt. Breeze	Yoerg, Henderson
"	18; 23	1; 1	Yates	Pawlicki; D'Anna
"	16; 23	1; 1	Somerset	K Landau et al; D'Anna
"	30	1 ad	Wales	Newton
Common Raven	17	1	Olean	Baird
"	31	1	Allegany SP	Baird
Horned Lark	10	50	Yates	Beattie
"	13	95	Bethany	Beattie
Carolina Wren	1; 10	1; 1	Queenston (Ont)	Yoerg; Newton
"	1 - 31	1	Batavia (f)	J Seamans
"	7	2	Devils Hole SP	Pawlicki

<u>Species</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	10	1	Queenston (Ont)	Newton
Golden-cr. Kinglet	16	1	Fort Niagara SP	K Landau, Wojewodzki
Eastern Bluebird	13, 14	7, 12	Dunkirk Airport	Neveu
"	18	5	Eden	Andrle
"	18	3	Hanover	Neveu
"	21	2	Perrysburg	Neveu
"	24	1	Grand I.	D&D Suggs
American Robin	24	50	Tifft NP	Newton
Gray Catbird	3	1	Buffalo	Yoerg, Henderson
"	25	1	Iroquois NWR	Hess (INWR)
Northern Mockingbird	1	1	Lackawanna	Rew, Horbett et al
"	9	1	Arcade	Gibson
"	10	1	Niagara Falls	Rew, Horbett et al
"	10	1	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	14	1	Grand I.	Pawlicki, Watson
"	23	1	Somerset	D'Anna
Bohemian Waxwing	<u>20</u>	2	Somerset	Carlson, Skelly, Daniels
Cedar Waxwing	20	150	Somerset	Carlson, Skelly, Daniels
Yellow-r. Warbler	29	1	Bethany	Tiede
Chipping Sparrow	1-29	1	Medina(f)	Morien
White-cr. Sparrow	1-11, 13	1, 12	Bethany	Beattie
"	9	1	Porter	D&D Suggs
"	31	8	Carlton	Pawlicki, Wheeler
Lapland Longspur	9	17	Somerset	Jones
"	10	1	Porter	Pawlicki
"	10	6	Newfane	D&D Suggs
"	10	1	Yates	Beattie
"	13	4	Bethany	Beattie
Snow Bunting	9	200	Porter	D&D Suggs
"	10	150	Yates	Beattie
"	13	220	Bethany	Beattie
"	15	135	Carlton	Beattie
"	16	12	Somerset	K Landau, Wojewodzki
Red-w. Blackbird	15	<u>320</u>	Lewiston	D'Anna
"	24	2	Porter	D'Anna, Potter
Rusty Blackbird	1-31	3	Jamestown(f)	Norton
Common Grackle	19	1	Alden	Fox
Brown-head. Cowbird	10	3	South Dayton	K Landau, Wojewodzki
"	11	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	19, 22	75, 50	Alden	Fox
"	19, 22	350, 200	Clarence(f)	Fox
"	19	150	Lancaster	Fox
"	30	3	Holland	Newton
Purple Finch	1	1	Grand I.	Lazarczyk
"	18	1	Golden Hill SP	Pawlicki
Common Redpoll	2	2	Java	Galas, Hacker
Pine Siskin	2	1	Java	Galas, Hacker
American Goldfinch	9	75	Orchard Park (f)	Morgante

Species, subspecies and named hybrids recorded this month
Total for the year 2010:

116
116

Statisticians Note I: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please advise us of any errors in the Noteworthy Records.

Also seen in January: Canada Goose, Mallard, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey, Pied-billed Grebe, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Rock Pigeon, E. Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, European Starling, American Tree Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, House Finch, House Sparrow.

Hybrid <i>Aythya</i> duck (possibly Redhead x Lesser Scaup or Ring-necked Duck)	30	1	Niag. River at Buffalo	Wheeler, Pawlicki
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Statisticians Note II: In the spirit of a New Year, we decided its time to update the ornithological order. There have been a few changes each year by the American Ornithologists Union (AOU) since our last Date Guide (mostly to gulls and shorebirds), especially in 2009. Consider making notations in the Date Guide based on the links and list below.

<http://www.nybirds.org/Publications/ChecklistNYS.htm>

<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~bbowman/birds/updates/abalist1.html>

Changes to Date Guide ornithological order include:

- move Cackling Goose and Canada Goose after Barnacle Goose
- move N. Bobwhite before Gray Partridge
- reorder beginning of sandpipers to the following:
 - o Spotted Sandpiper
 - o Solitary Sandpiper
 - o Spotted Redshank
 - o Greater Yellowlegs
 - o Willet
 - o Lesser Yellowlegs
 - o Wood Sandpiper
- Move Great Skua and the 3 jaegers to after the terns
- Reorder the gulls as follows:
 - o Black-legged Kittiwake
 - o Ivory Gull
 - o Sabine's Gull
 - o Bonaparte's Gull
 - o Black-headed Gull
 - o Little Gull
 - o Ross's Gull
 - o Laughing Gull
 - o Franklin's Gull
 - o Mew Gull
 - o Ring-billed Gull
 - o California Gull
 - o Herring Gull
 - o Thayer's Gull
 - o Iceland Gull
 - o Lesser Black-backed Gull
 - o Slaty-backed Gull
 - o Glaucous Gull
 - o Great Black-backed Gull
- Reorder the terns as follows:
 - o Sooty Tern
 - o Least Tern
 - o Caspian Tern
 - o Black Tern
 - o Roseate Tern
 - o Common Tern
 - o Arctic Tern
 - o Forster's Tern (then G. Skua and the jaegers)
- Move White-winged Dove before Mourning Dove
- Move Yellow-billed Cuckoo before Black-billed Cuckoo
- Move the three tanagers to after Snow Bunting and before N. Cardinal



May - August Calendar & Announcements

Buffalo-Niagara Regions Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

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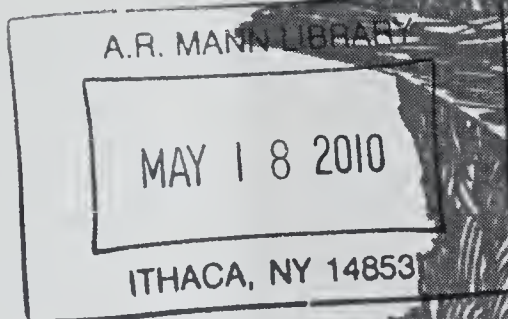
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The Prothonotary

BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Volume 76, No. 3 March 2010

THE MONTH: February

Elizabeth Wells

Record-breaking winter storms hit the Atlantic seaboard and the Northeast, bypassing most of WNY. The result was an uneventful, consistent, though cold, February. Temperatures were "unusually low" (MacLaughlin) ranging from a low of 6 degrees on the 7th to a high of 37 degrees on the last day of the month. A mean temperature of 24.6 degrees is 1.3 degrees below average; there were no extreme temperature ranges within a 24-hour period. Total precipitation was 1.60 inches, 0.82 below normal.

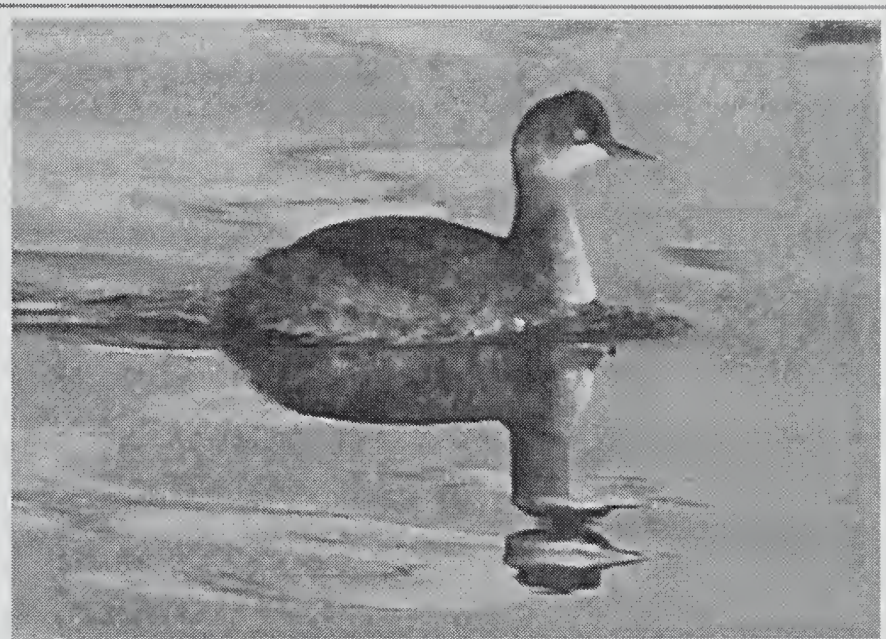
Snow cover was 3-9 inches throughout the month, and overall precipitation was 4.4 inches below average, with a total of 13.4 inches, mostly snow. Seventeen days had measurable snow, with the greatest accumulation on February 25, of 1.9 inches, with some areas getting 3 to 6 inches on the 25th and 26th. This was the result of one of the coastal storms, and it did bring heavy snow to both Genesee and Orleans County. Lake Erie remained mostly frozen throughout the month, with no lake-effect snow. February was dreary, with 3 days mostly sunny, and 18 mostly cloudy.

MacLaughlin summarized this winter as a bit cold, but "remarkably consistent with few extremes." He goes on to say "... the storm track remained well south and brought record snows to many cities in the Mid Atlantic and Ohio Valley. Conversely...Buffalo was the only sizable city in the Northeast to see no really major snowfalls at all..."

February's most notable bird was the Eared Grebe, first seen on February 18 by Dave Neveu in Dunkirk Harbor. It was last recorded on the 27th, and generally was seen resting and diving on the east side of the main pier. Verified by J. Pawlicki and W. Watson, both remarked on its similar size to nearby Horned and Pied-billed Grebes, but noted its spherical head, peaked crown, and an all dark, thin beak. W. Watson suggested

it might be an immature due to its orangish-red eye.

Eared Grebes, rare any time of year in our area,



(Top) Eared Grebe photographed by Jim Pawlicki at Dunkirk Harbor on February 21st. (Bottom) Red-shouldered Hawk photographed by Joseph Mitchell in Darien on February 7th. The Red-shouldered Hawk is one of two that over-wintered in that area.

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Bruce Chilton
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are most likely to be seen during fall migration, and more rarely, during spring migration. B.O.S. records show only three Eared Grebes sightings for the months of February, all at Dunkirk Harbor. The most recent February records of Eared Grebe were 2003: W. Watson, February 2nd & F. Rew, February 8th. The first and only other February record was from February 19, 1993 by Mosher et al.

King Eiders were in Buffalo Harbor from February 13th through the 21st. According to GeneseeBirds posts, three were spotted: 1 female, 1 immature male, and 1 male. Considered

rare, King Eiders

are usually recorded here in winter, November through April. There were four February sightings in the last decade, most recently in 2005. That year there were two sightings at Strawberry Island, on February 21st and 24th by J. Pawlicki and W. Watson. W. D'Anna and D. DiTommaso also had one at Fort Niagara SP on February 27th. The first February record for a King Eider was February 26, 1961 at Beaver Island SP by Nathan and Braunerns. There are a few records each decade in the 60s - 80s, with no February records in the 90s.

There was an unusually high count of 76 Red-throated Loons by Willie D'Anna at Fort Niagara SP on the 15th. D'Anna estimated they were about a half mile from shore, with the possibility of being more visible from Niagara-on-the-Lake. Red-throated Loons were formerly rare during winter in the B.O.S. Study Area after December; however, they have been increasing in occurrence and numbers in recent winters. It is unusual for more than one or two to be spotted, with D'Anna reporting eight on February 23, 2008, at Golden Hill SP. This years count of 76 is an order of magnitude higher than previous counts for February (or January).

There were reports of 52 Bald Eagles this month, with high counts of 19 and 11, by D. Neveu in Dunkirk Harbor on February 18 and 21, respectively. Eagles were seen throughout the area from Dunkirk to Youngstown, generally in the later part of the month. It would appear that the efforts made to save the Bald Eagle were well worthwhile.

Many thanks to Mike Morgante and David Suggs, and to Steve MacLaughlin, National Weather Service.

BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY GRANT REPORT

David Spiering

At Tifft Nature Preserve we accomplished much with the funding granted by the Buffalo Ornithological Society over the past year. There are many nest boxes on the preserve for Eastern Bluebirds, Tree Swallows, and Wood Ducks. These nest boxes have produced countless clutches of birds through the years, but many of these nest boxes were old and in poor condition. The BOS grant allowed Tifft Nature Preserve staff, along with AmeriCorps ABLE members and volunteers, to purchase the resources needed to repair, replace, and improve the condition of nest boxes throughout the preserve. The following improvements were made:

Bluebird/Swallow Nest Boxes on the Mounds

- 7 – Old nest boxes were removed
- 26 – Existing nest boxes were cleaned/maintained
- 7 – New nest boxes (5 with telescoping posts)
- 7 – Refurbished nest boxes for future installation

Wood Duck Nest Boxes in the Marsh

- 8 – Old nest boxes were removed
- 2 – Existing nest boxes were cleaned and maintained
- 3 – New nest boxes were installed
- 2 – Refurbished nest boxes for future installation

Upon completion of the above activities, there are currently 36 Bluebird/Swallow boxes and 5 Wood Duck boxes ready for the 2010 nesting season at the preserve. All new nest boxes installed at Tifft Nature Preserve are properly designed for the target bird species and can be opened for annual cleaning. Several boxes having posts that can be climbed by nest predators are equipped with predator guards. Also, five of the newly installed nest boxes are mounted on telescoping posts so that the nest box can be lowered to a child's eye level to see the nest, eggs, or chicks inside. Opening of nest boxes during the nesting season will only be done on a limited basis with small groups and by knowledgeable educators.

The original proposal stated a completion date for this project of 2014, so additional supplies were purchased that will be used in future years (see itemized budget for all supplies purchased). The \$263 grant was less than the \$500 requested, but with the repurposing of materials from removed nest boxes and organizing supplies on hand at the preserve's maintenance shop, there are materials available to repair, replace, and maintain nest boxes for several years to come. These materials include 12 Bluebird/Swallow boxes, 10 posts, 2 predator guards, 3 Wood Duck boxes, a bag of wood shavings, and miscellaneous bolts, nuts, and other hardware. These supplies and materials should be sufficient to maintain existing nest boxes, replace damaged ones, and even install additional boxes in new locations until the spring of 2014. Therefore, we are not requesting additional funds for nest boxes at Tifft Nature Preserve at this time.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (8th Edition - Revised 2009) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for the species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

* = First record for the year.

F - First record for the migration.

L - Last record for the migration.

(f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of young.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PV - Indicates Previously Documented

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Ave., Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com

<u>Species</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
* Snow Goose	25	30	Great Valley	Kurtis
Mute Swan	15	8	Lewiston	Mitchell
Tundra Swan	2	271	Strawberry I. & Niag. R.	Pawlicki
"	17	114	Beaver I. SP	Watson
"	23	122	Niagara Falls	Watson
"	28	40	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Wood Duck	2	2	Amherst	Pawlicki
Gadwall	2	30	Goat I.	Pawlicki
Canvasback	20	7000	Motor I.	Suggs
Redhead	21	48	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Ring-necked Duck	13, 21	6, 12	Strawberry I.	Pawlicki, Watson
"	19	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Suggs
"	28	1	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki, Newton
Greater Scaup	13	14000	Buffalo & Niagara River	Watson, Pawlicki
Lesser Scaup	6; 17	23; 24	Tonawanda	Suggs; Hess
King Eider	13 - 21	1	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki, Watson et al
Surf Scoter	15	3	Niag.-on the-Lake (Ont)	D'Anna
White-winged Scoter	12	6	Buffalo	Mitchell
"	15	436	Niag.-on the-Lake (Ont)	D'Anna
"	20	250	Fort Niagara SP	Suggs
Black Scoter	2; 15	1; 2	Pt. Breeze	Guthrie; Lawrence
"	28	1	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki, Newton
Bufflehead	13	1200	Buffalo & Niagara River	Watson
"	20	1000	Bird I. Pier.	Yerkovich
Common Goldeneye	24	170	Pt. Breeze	Tetlow
<u>Barrow's Goldeneye</u>	15; 24	1 PV	Pt. Breeze	Lawrence; Tetlow
Hooded Merganser	21	7	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
Common Merganser	6	10000	Niagara R.	Suggs
"	13	650	Strawberry I.	Watson
Ruddy Duck	20; 21	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu; Watson
Wild Turkey	21	59	French Creek	Watson, Pawlicki
Red-throated Loon	2	2	Pt. Breeze	Guthrie
"	15	<u>76</u>	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna
Pied-billed Grebe	2	1	Tonawanda I.	Pawlicki
"	21	11	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
Horned Grebe	24	3	Dunkirk Harbor	Mitchell
* <u>Eared Grebe</u>	21	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Watson, Neveu
D.-crested Cormorant	15	3	Squaw I.	Mitchell
"	21	146	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson

<u>Species</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Great Blue Heron	2	71	Tonawanda	Pawlicki
"	11	22	Queenston (Ont)	D'Anna et al
"	17; 20	33; 42	Motor I.	Watson; Suggs
"	18	21	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Bald Eagle	2, 12	3, 3	Grand I.	Pawlicki
"	13, 17	1	Strawberry I.	Watson
"	14	1 ad	Buffalo Harbor	Yoerg, Henderson
"	18, 21	<u>19</u> , 11	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	19	2	South Dayton	J&K Landau
"	19	2	Navy I. (Ont)	Hess
"	20	4	Tonawanda	Suggs
"	20	1	Youngstown	Suggs
"	20	2 juv	Dunkirk Airport	Neveu
"	23	1	Niagara Falls	Watson, Pawlicki
"	23	2	Porter	T O'Donnell
Red-shouldered Hawk	4, 23	2	Darien	Mitchell et al
"	8	1	Bennington	Beattie
Rough-legged Hawk	6	1	Yates	Suggs
"	19	2	South Dayton	J&K Landau
"	21	1 dark	French Creek	Pawlicki, Watson
Merlin	10	1	Clarence Center	Sowinski
"	20	1	Beaver I. SP	Suggs
"	28	1	Carlton	Tetlow
Peregrine Falcon	2; 20	1	S. Grand I. bridge	Pawlicki; Suggs
"	13	1 imm	Fort Erie (Ont)	D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	23	1	N. Grand I. bridge	Pawlicki, Watson
American Coot	5	75	Dunkirk Harbor	Powell
Killdeer	21	2	Clymer	Pawlicki, Watson
Little Gull	7; 15	1; 1	Lewiston	D'Anna, Potter; Mitchell
"	21	2	Queenston (Ont)	Lenz, Wiley
Iceland Gull	7	6	Lewiston	D'Anna, Potter
"	11	4	Goat I.	D'Anna et al
"	15	3	Devils Hole SP	Mitchell
"	21	9	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	Lenz, Wiley
"	26	4	Olcott	Pawlicki
Lesser Black-b. Gull	11; 15	3; 1	Goat I.	D'Anna et al; Mitchell
Glaucous Gull	7	1	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna, Potter
"	11	1	Goat I.	D'Anna et al
"	7 - 21	1 - 3	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu; Yoerg et al; Pawlicki et al
"	24	1	Pt. Breeze	Tetlow
"	28	1	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki, Newton
Great Black-b. Gull	18; 19	400; 727	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu; Suggs
Snowy Owl	6; 15	1	Somerset	Suggs; Lawrence
* Barred Owl	28	1	E. Pembroke	Seamans
* Long-eared Owl	14	3	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Red-headed Wdpkr.	15	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Lawrence
Northern Shrike	6	1	Carlton	Tetlow
"	6, 15	1	Yates	Tetlow
"	7	1 imm	Sheridan	Yoerg, Henderson
Common Raven	7	2 - 3	Arkwright	Yoerg, Henderson
"	16	2	Middlebury	Tetlow
"	21	1	Allegany SP	Yoerg, Henderson

<u>Species</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Horned Lark	20	75	Bethany	Beattie
"	23	23	Yates	Sowinski
Carolina Wren	13, 21	1	Silver Creek	Neveu
Eastern Bluebird	15	9	Silver Creek	Neveu
American Robin	2	20	Goat I.	Pawlicki
"	20	19	Joseph Davis SP	Suggs
"	20	12	Dunkirk Airport	Neveu
"	21	60	Westfield	Pawlicki, Watson
Gray Catbird	15	1	Oak Orchard WMA	S&T O'Donnell
N. Mockingbird	27	1	Bethany	Beattie
Yellow-r. Warbler	27	2	Bethany	Beattie
* Field Sparrow	13	1	Tifft NP	Pawlicki, Watson
* Swamp Sparrow	28	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
White-cr. Sparrow	7; 23	2; 2	Bethany	Beattie; Hess
Lapland Longspur	8	1	Alexander	Beattie, Mason
"	15	3	Somerset	Lawrence
"	28	3	Carlton	Tetlow
Snow Bunting	13	450	Wilson	D'Anna
"	15	125	Somerset	Lawrence
"	15	1650	Carlton	Tetlow
"	15	210	Yates	Tetlow
"	20	175	Bethany	Beattie
"	20	160	Porter	Suggs
Red-w. Blackbird	3, 12	450, 100+	Lewiston	D'Anna
"	20	6	Tonawanda	Watson
Brown-head. Cowbird	12	8	Lewiston	D'Anna
Purple Finch	3	5	Alden	Mitchell
Species, subspecies and named hybrids recorded this month				116
New species, subspecies, and named hybrids recorded this month:				006
Total for the year 2010:				<u>122</u>

Statisticians Note: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please advise us of any errors in the Noteworthy Records.



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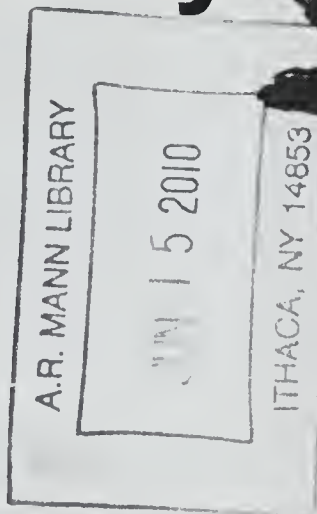
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The Prothonotary

BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Volume 76, No. 4 April 2010

THE MONTH: March

Tim Baird

A reasonable weather summary for March 2010 in the B.O.S. region might be: 'It was pleasant for birds and birders.' McLaughlin's report from the National Weather Service in Buffalo summarizes the month as, "...AN EARLY START TO SPRING."

Hardly anything more needs to be said, but a few details might help us appreciate the exceptional conditions this month. March 2010 and March 1946 are the only Marches on record without measureable snow! This is the first winter season on record without measureable snow for both November and March. Only 1.7 inches of rain fell, well below the average 3.0 inches. Although no extreme temperature records were set, March's average at 38.1° F was 3.8° F above normal. The 55% total sunshine was nine points above normal. Buffalo Harbor was clear of ice by the 23rd, making it the earliest ice free date in 84 years of records, nearly a month earlier than the normal date of April 17th. Lake Erie's water temperature on March 31st measured 35° F.

The main weather event occurred during the 12th—14th with wind and rain as the region sat on the periphery of a major storm that ravaged the Atlantic coast. The period brought nearly an inch of rain to western New York, and winds from the Northeast gusted to 40 mph on the 13th. Minor rains fell late in the month as the area was again on the western edge of large coastal lows.

The two hawk watches in our region, Ripley and Hamburg, enjoyed good flights of Turkey Vultures with a total of 5,175 passing Ripley and 4,947 through Hamburg. The only March record for Black Vulture came from an observation by D'Anna and Potter in Hartland, nicely verified and photographed by D'Anna. Red-shouldered Hawks and Red-tailed Hawks were the most common raptors at both hawk watch sites,

including an impressive 87 and 132 respectively on the 18th at Hamburg. An adult Golden Eagle flew by

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(Top) Black Vulture photographed by Willie D'Anna at Hartland on March 14st.



(Bottom) Barnacle Goose photographed by Willie D'Anna at Iroquois Wildlife Management Area on March 20th.

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Hamburg on March 19th and was verified by Pawlicki. Hamburg records also note another Golden Eagle on the 20th. A monthly summary for both of our region's hawk watches can be found at The Hawk Migration Association of North America website

(www.hmana.org). An added extra at the Hamburg Hawk Watch was an impressive count of 2,408 Tundra Swans on March 10th reported by Wheeler and Pawlicki.

A Barnacle Goose, first located by Joe Mitchell, was observed at Iroquois on the 17th, 20th, and 21st. Another Barnacle Goose (same bird?) was seen on the 27th at Hartland. These observations were backed up with photos and

verifications from several people. This bird (birds?) lacked any visible leg bands unlike Watson's September 2009 Barnacle Goose that was banded and most likely an escape. Barnacle Geese nest as far west as eastern Greenland and normally winter in Europe. The true vagrant status of this species in eastern North America is difficult to determine as it is often kept in captivity. The B.O.S. data base reveals 13 spring records spanning 1983--1996 for the Barnacle Goose, and all these sightings consisted of single birds. Nine records occur in March, four in April and one in May. Similarly, the account in Beardslee and Mitchell (1965) highlights the rare spring visitation of Barnacle Geese.

There were several reports of Cackling Geese from regional wetland complexes including large accumulations on the 14th with 92 reported from Iroquois NWR by Yoerg and 79 at Hartland noted by Pawlicki and Wheeler. A Barrow's Goldeneye was reported from Point Breeze on the 8th and may be the same bird observed by several birders at this location in January and February of this year and nicely photographed by Pawlicki in January. The only Eared Grebe report came from Neveu for a bird at Dunkirk Harbor on the 4th. This could be the same bird observed there on February 21st by Pawlicki and Watson.

A few species illustrate fairly recent changes in populations or behaviors as indicated by their being seen earlier or more regularly in the region than in past years. Since the early 1980s when the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation undertook a project led by Mary Forness to hack Ospreys at the Allegheny Reservoir in Cattaraugus County, Ospreys have become a common nesting species at the reservoir and have expanded into other areas. As the local nesting population of Ospreys has become established, they are arriving earlier in the spring than when the species was seen only on migration. LeBlanc reported an early Osprey at Allegany State Park on the 22nd.

A species apparently becoming more regular in the B.O.S. area is the Sandhill Crane. D'Anna and Potter found a single crane at Iroquois NWR on the 20th. Beardslee and Mitchell (1965) note the Sandhill Crane only as an "*accidental very rare visitant*." The Noteworthy Records List indicates that Common Ravens are living up to their name as they are being encountered frequently outside their original stronghold in the large tracts of forest in the southern tier counties of the Allegheny Plateau.

For whatever reason, there were few Wilson's Snipe that are normally found in abundance during the annual March Cattaraugus County Bird Club field trip to wetlands in the Randolph, NY area. Perhaps the pleasant March weather stimulated the snipe to continue north earlier than usual.

Eastern Meadowlark populations have shown a 72% decline over the last 40 years as reported by the National Audubon Society (www.stateofthebirds.audubon.org). The collection of observational information like that provided to the B.O.S. can provide valuable knowledge toward understanding population changes in certain species. For example, Watson's March 11th count of 1,334 Red-winged Blackbirds migrating through Hamburg lends anecdotal support that this member of the blackbird tribe is surviving and adapting well to whatever changes might be negatively affecting the Eastern Meadowlark population.

I think it is important to note the observer names accompanying the B.O.S. list for this month and every month. The consistent recurrence of some names throughout the year is reflective of their dedication to providing documentation of the birds of western New York and southern Ontario. Everyone who submits records for the database should be recognized and appreciated by all of us for their important contribution to our knowledge, appreciation, and understanding of the area's birds.

I appreciate the assistance in obtaining data from the B.O.S. records provided by David Suggs. Mike Morgante and Gerry Rising reviewed a draft of this article and offered helpful suggestions.

Beardslee, C.S. and H.D. Mitchell (1965) Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region. *Bull. of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences* 22, 1-478.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (8th Edition - Revised 2009) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for the species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

* = First record for the year.

F - First record for the migration.

L - Last record for the migration.

(f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of young.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PV - Indicates Previously Documented

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Ave., Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com

<u>Species</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
* Gr. White-fr. Goose	13	1	Oakfield	Wood
"	14	1	Hartland	D'Anna, Wheeler
"	19	5	Iroquois NWR	Wheeler
"	30, 31	1	Porter	D'Anna et al
Snow Goose	10	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	11; 14	11; 28	Yates	Sharon; Wood
"	11	1 wh	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson, Pawlicki
"	11	31 wh	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Pawlicki, Watson et al
"	11; 21	6; 1 wh	Iroquois NWR	Beattie; Morgante
"	12, 24	5, 1	Alabama	Mitchell
"	13; 15	28; 57	Oakfield	Pawlicki, Mitchell; Fox
"	16	2	Newstead	Salembier
"	31	1	Hamburg	Pawlicki et al
* <u>Barnacle Goose</u>	17	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Mitchell et al
"	20, 21	1	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna, Wheeler et al
"	27	1	Hartland	D'Anna, Watson (BOS)
* Cackling Goose	12F;20	1, 2	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna
"	13	6	Oakfield	Mitchell, Pawlicki
"	13	1	Shelby	Watson
"	14	<u>92</u>	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg
"	14	<u>79</u> ; 29	Hartland	Pawlicki, Wheeler; D'Anna
"	15	4	Alabama	Mitchell
"	15	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
"	17	5	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
"	21	22	Oakfield	Watson, Pawlicki
"	23	1	Somerset	Yoerg
Canada Goose	28	1 (leucistic)	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg, Henderson
Tundra Swan	1	2	Celeron	Neveu
"	3	75	Niagara River	Mitchell
"	10	105	Bethany	Beattie
"	10	<u>2408</u>	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Wheeler, Pawlicki
"	11	13	Buffalo Harbor	Watson, Pawlicki
"	11	176	Evangola SP	Watson et al
"	16	8	Tonawanda WMA	Salembier
"	20	59	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	21	17	Iroquois NWR	Morgante
"	21	8	Celeron	Mitchell
"	29	1	Tift NP	Wheeler
Wood Duck	11F	10	Lancaster	Morgante

<u>Species</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	13	2	Pomfret	Neveu
Gadwall	5F; 11	3; 17	Beaver I. SP	Sharon; Hess
"	19	25	Hartland	Fox
* Eurasian Wigeon	30F; 31	2; 1	Oak Orchard WMA	Wheeler, Pawlicki; Mitchell
American Wigeon	11F	14	Beaver I. SP	Hess
"	11F	16	Buffalo	Watson
"	30	280	Oak Orchard WMA	Pawlicki, Wheeler
* Blue-winged Teal	19F; 21	2; 1	Iroquois NWR	Wheeler; Pawlicki
"	20	1	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence
Northern Shoveler	11F	4	Yates	Sharon
"	12	2	Hanover	Moshers
Northern Pintail	10F	2	Tonawanda	Hess
"	10F	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	12	500	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna, Potter
"	12	12	Hanover	Moshers
"	14; 27	1150; 285	Hartland	D'Anna et al; Watson
Green-winged Teal	12F	3	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna, Potter
"	13	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Canvasback	20F	7	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	20	6	Ashville Bay	Mitchell
Redhead	11	120	Buffalo Harbor	Watson
"	14	1	Yates	D'Anna
"	21	30	Celeron	Mitchell
"	21	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
Ring-necked Duck	5F	2	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	13	49	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	14	8	Hartland	D'Anna, Potter
"	16	307	Celeron	Neveu
"	21; 22	250; 50	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson; Beattie, Hartwig
Greater Scaup	11	900	Buffalo Harbor	Watson
"	20F	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Lesser Scaup	11	20	Buffalo Harbor	Watson
"	20, 27	15, 95	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Surf Scoter	14	1	Fort Niagara SP	Wood
Black Scoter	8	1	Pt. Breeze	Powell
Long-tailed Duck	20F	2	Oak Orchard WMA	Wheeler
"	20F	4	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	21	4	Allegany SP	Baird, DeSha
"	21	2	Iroquois NWR	Morgante
"	21	3	Celeron	Mitchell
"	26	360	Lewiston	Watson
Bufflehead	4	204	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	13F	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	22	45	Oak Orchard WMA	Beattie, Hartwig
Common Goldeneye	17F	5	Batavia WWTP	Watson
<u>Barrow's Goldeneye</u>	8	1 PV	Pt. Breeze	Powell
Hooded Merganser	10F	7	Allegheny Reservoir	Miles
"	11	2	Beaver I. SP	Hess
"	11	15	Buffalo Harbor	Watson
Common Merganser	13F	1	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	13F	36	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Red-br. Merganser	20F	4	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Ruddy Duck	11	1	Buffalo Harbor	Watson, Pawlicki

<u>Species</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	17; 20, 27	1; 30, 74	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Fox
"	21	6	Celeron	Mitchell
"	21	4	Oakfield	Yoerg, Watson et al
Red-throated Loon	7; 27	11; 3	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna et al
"	14	9	Fort Niagara SP	Wood
* Common Loon	7F	1	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna
Pied-billed Grebe	20F	1	Ashville Bay	Mitchell
"	20F	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	21	2	Iroquois NWR	Morgante
Horned Grebe	7	30	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna
"	20	60	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	21	24	Celeron	Mitchell
Red-necked Grebe	7	15	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna
"	20	143	Somerset & Yates	D'Anna
"	20	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Wheeler
"	27; 28	98; 95	Somerset	D'Anna (BOS); Fox
Eared Grebe	4	1 PV	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Double-cr. Cormorant	11	138	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
"	21F, 24	1	Iroquois NWR	Morgante
"	26	18	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	27	30	Fort Erie (Ont)	Jacklin
Great Blue Heron	24	68	Motor I.	Watson
* Great Egret	23F; 31	2; 13	Motor I.	Sharon; Watson
"	30	1	Beaver I. SP	Hess
Black-cr. Night Heron	24	5	Motor I.	Watson
"	24	6	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
* <u>Black Vulture</u>	14	1	Hartland	D'Anna, Potter
* Turkey Vulture	3F	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	N Vigyikan et al
"	6	1	South Dayton	Mitchell
"	6	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	24; 31	1479; 1742	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Zebehazy et al
"	25	88	Egbertsville	Suggs
* Osprey	<u>22F</u> ; 27	2; 1	Allegany SP	LeBlanc; Baird (CCBC)
"	28	1	Iroquois NWR	Sharon
Bald Eagle	3	4	Hamburg Hawkwatch	N Vigyikan et al
"	4, 7	4 juv, 7 juv	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	7	1 ad + n	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	11	4	Evangola SP	Pawlicki, Watson et al
"	11; 19	1	Alexander	Mitchell; Beattie
"	16; 21	2 ad + n; 6	Iroquois NWR	Salembier; Morgante
"	17	1 ad	Salamanca	Baird (CCBC)
"	17	2 ad + n	Allegheny Reservoir	Baird
"	20	1	South Dayton	Mitchell
Northern Harrier	7	1	Yates	Yoerg, Henderson
"	12,22,26	3, 1, 1	Iroquois NWR	Beattie, Hartwig
"	18	6	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Rew et al
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	1	Darien	Mitchell
"	2	1	Ashford	J. Rosenberg
"	13	1	Pomfret	Neveu
"	16,17,24	1, 1, 1	Alfred	Brooks
"	24	80	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Zebehazy et al
Rough-legged Hawk	3; 19	1; 2 dk	Alfred	Brooks
"	7	1 dk	Yates	Yoerg, Henderson

<u>Species</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	15	2	Alabama	Mitchell
"	16	1	Tonawanda WMA	Salembier
"	17	6	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Andrle et al
"	21	1 dk, 1 lt	Conewango	Baird
"	24	1	Buffalo Airport	Mitchell
* <u>Golden Eagle</u>	19	1 ad	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Pawlicki et al
Merlin	1	1	Tonawanda	Chilton
"	6	1	South Dayton	Mitchell
"	12, 27	1, 1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Hamilton
"	27	1	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell, Pawlicki
"	28	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Fox
Peregrine Falcon	2	1	Grand I.	Mitchell
"	4	1	Beaver I. SP	Hess
"	6, 18	2 ad	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
"	18	1 imm	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Pawlicki, Rew et al
"	20	1	UB south campus	Yoerg
"	27	1 imm	Yates	D'Anna, Potter (BOS)
American Coot	11	39	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
	13F	2	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
* Sandhill Crane	20	1	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna, Potter
Killdeer	9	5	Clarence	Salembier
"	10	1	Alden	Mitchell
* Greater Yellowlegs	25F	2	Eden	Andrle
"	28	1	Alabama	Yoerg, Henderson
* Wilson's Snipe	9F	1	Clarence	Salembier
"	21	1	Iroquois NWR	Morgante; Potter
"	26	5	Shelby	Beattie, Hartwig
"	27	1	Randolph	Baird (CCBC)
* American Woodcock	17F	1	Buffalo	Gordon
"	18	1	Alfred	Brooks
Bonaparte's Gull	27	49	Allegheny Reservoir	Baird (CCBC)
Black-headed Gull	14; 26	1 ad	Lewiston	Wheeler, Pawlicki; Pawlicki
"	15	1	Fort Niagara SP	Wheeler
Little Gull	14	20	Lewiston	Johnson, Wood et al
"	14;15,18	7; 9, 4	Fort Niagara SP	Yoerg et al; Wheeler
Iceland Gull	3	5	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Pawlicki, Wheeler
"	26	2	Goat I.	Pawlicki, Watson et al
Lesser Black-b. Gull	5; 26	6; 4	Goat I.	Pawlicki et al
"	5	2	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Watson, Pawlicki
"	11	2	Porter	D'Anna
"	11	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	13	1	Batavia	Pawlicki, Mitchell
"	27	1	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Gordon (BOS)
"	28	1	Chaffee	Wojewodzki
Glaucous Gull	2	3	Four Mile Creek SP	Pawlicki, Wheeler
"	28	1	Chaffee	Wojewodzki
Snowy Owl	7	1	Somerset	Watson, Rosenberg
Short-eared Owl	15-31	4	North Collins	Francisco, Feltz
Red-headed Wdpkr.	28	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Lawrence
* Eastern Phoebe	21F	1	Conewango Swamp	Baird, DeSha
"	24	1	Iroquois NWR	Morgante
Northern Shrike	3	1	Attica	Mitchell
"	6; 16	1; 1	Tonawanda WMA	Watson; Salembier
"	7	1	Allegany SP	Baird

<u>Species</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	9	1	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki
"	11	1	Darien	Mitchell
"	13	1	Carlton	Wood
Common Raven	4	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	7	1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	8	1	East Concord	K Landau
"	10, 31	1, 1	Darien	Fox
"	11	1	East Bethany	Beattie
"	28	1	Colden	K Landau
* Tree Swallow	21F	10	Allegany SP	Baird, DeSha
"	21F	1	Oakfield	Morgante
Carolina Wren	1, 3	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	4 - 17	1	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	30	1	Beaver I. SP	Hess
Golden-cr. Kinglet	27F	6	Golden Hill SP	Watson
American Robin	11	210	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
Northern Mockingbird	3, 16	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	9	1	Clarence	Salembier
"	11	1	Alexander	Mitchell
"	20	1	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence
* American Pipit	27F	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	28	3	Yates	Fox
"	31	24	Bethany	Beattie
* Fox Sparrow	19F, 26	1, 6	Ashford	J. Rosenberg
"	22, 24	2, 3	Alfred	Brooks
"	22 - 31	1 - 4	Colden	J Landau
"	25, 31	1, 1	Eden (f)	Andrle
Swamp Sparrow	26F	1	Alexander	Fox
"	27	2	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Lapland Longspur	7	1	Yates	Wood
Snow Bunting	6	10	South Dayton	Mitchell
"	15	2	Oakfield	Mitchell
"	27	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Red-w. Blackbird	4	1	Tonawanda	Hess
"	5	11	Porter	Watson, Pawlicki
"	11	1334	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
* Eastern Meadowlark	10F	2	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Pawlicki, Chilton et al
"	13	1	Oakfield	Mitchell, Pawlicki
Rusty Blackbird	11	2	Evans	Pawlicki, Watson
"	13; 28	22; 5	Royalton	Watson; Sharon
"	21; 27	6; 12	Conewango Swamp	Baird et al; Baird (CCBC)
"	21; 28	10; 50	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg; Yoerg, Henderson
Common Grackle	4F	1	Tonawanda	Hess
"	5, 7	1, 50	Silver Creek	Neveu
Brown-head. Cowbird	6, 7	5, 100	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	9	6	Darien	Mitchell
Purple Finch	11	1	Alden	Mitchell
"	21	1	Eden(f)	Andrle
"	30	1	Lancaster	Morgante

Species, subspecies and named hybrids previously recorded:	122
New species, subspecies, and named hybrids recorded this month:	020
Total for the year 2010:	142

Statisticians Note: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please advise us of any errors in the Noteworthy Records.



June - August Calendar & Announcements

Buffalo-Niagara Regions Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

June 9: Wednesday. Annual June Picnic will be held at Tifft Nature Preserve (off Fuhrman Blvd), and followed by a short field trip of Tifft Nature Preserve. Bring your own food and we will eat at 6:00 PM near the Visitor Center.

July 25: Sunday: Canadian shoreline of Lake Erie for shorebirds. Leader: Doug Happ (649-1297). Meet at 7:00 AM at Vermont and Busti near the Peace Bridge. We will car pool from there. Among other places, we will be going to Rock Point Provincial Park, which charges \$13.00 Canadian per car for entry, so bring Canadian money if you have it. Make sure you have a passport, pass port card, Nexus, or enhanced drivers license.

Aug. 15: Sunday. Buffalo Ornithological Society Shorebird Count. Coordinator Lynne Landon (745-9129 or llandon@daemen.edu).

Aug. 29: Sunday: Canadian shoreline of Lake Erie for shorebirds. Leader: Doug Happ (649-1297). Meet at 7:00 AM at Vermont and Busti near the Peace Bridge. We will car pool from there. Among other places, we will be going to Rock Point Provincial Park, which charges \$13.00 Canadian per car for entry, so bring Canadian money if you have it. Make sure you have a passport or card, Nexus, or enhanced drivers license.

Announcement; a new book entitled "MOMENTS of DISCOVERY, Natural History Narratives from Mexico and Central America", edited by Kevin Winker has recently been published by the University Press of Florida. Edited by Kevin Winker of the University of Alaska Museum at Fairbanks it includes 19 authors who present fascinating and exciting tales of their field studies, adventures, birds and other animal specimens that they secured for the Louisiana State Museum. These intrepid researchers relate exciting experiences during more than 60 years of travels in magnificent tropical lands. This book, 401 pages with 49 photographs, Index and Literature Cited, is written by many well-known authors, including local scientists such as Stephen Eaton, Robert Andrie, and John Rappole, as well as other well known ornithological authors such as Dwain Warner, Joe T. Marshall, Charles Sibley, and Miguel Alvarez del Toro.

Turkey Vulture Fallout in the Town of Amherst *David F. Suggs*

Hard to believe the very common Turkey Vulture could provide an exciting observation. A chance crossing with a flock of buzzards on March 25, in the neighborhood where I have lived most of my life, provided a remarkable, inside-the-kettle view of this species.

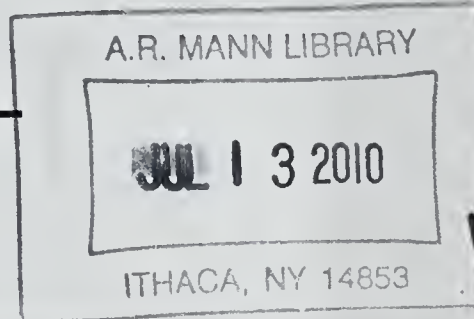
Driving west on Main Street at Eggert Rd, in the Eggerstville-Snyder area of the Town of Amherst, a large flock of low flying Turkey Vultures appeared from the south side of Main Street at 7:08 PM. I was able to turn off the street into a parking lot between an office building and Sacred Heart Academy School. Stepping out of the car, I was astonished – I was surrounded in a swirl of flapping and gliding vultures, apparently searching for a night roost. The birds were not much higher in the air than the tops of the trees and buildings, leading to my estimate that they were only 30 to 50 feet over my head. With eyes only, I identified and counted each bird. As I reached a total of 88 vultures, the flock aligned and moved eastward, still at a low elevation. As they were leaving, a second count of the organized flock, by tens, estimated 90 birds.

Back in the car, I followed the flock; holding back from speeding on 35 mph Main Street. Four blocks east, I found the vultures descending on Koster Row, north of Main Street. Out of the car again, the vultures seemed to be everywhere, appearing and disappearing over the homes, making a recount impossible. For size contrast, a single American Crow flew through the crowd of outstretched vulture wings. The crow's span was about half the span of the vultures. At 7:25 PM, the vultures drifted further east and out of sight. From my last view, it appeared the vultures were passing over Getzville Road and the Daemen College campus.

Reviewing the National Weather Service Climate Report for this date - light rain, fog, zero sun, average temperature 39°F. My weather observation during the vulture fallout –full, low cloud cover after light rain cleared earlier in the day. March 26, the sun set at 7:33 PM.

The Prothonotary

BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Volume 76, No. 5 May 2010

THE MONTH: April

Bill Watson

The Weather: This April was warm enough to convert an informed global warming nay-sayer. It was the hottest April in 89 years! The month's mean average temperature of 51.1 °F (5.8 °F above normal) was only edged out as the warmest ever April in 140 years of records, by April 1921 that had an average temperature of 51.3 °F. The first three days were all record highs, and the 84 °F on the 3rd was "the warmest ever so early in the season." The first eight days were averaged 17 degrees above normal, but then a gradual cooling trend happened and the last ten days were close to normal before a very warm day on the last day of the month. All the months nine unusually early arrivals correlated with the very warm part of the month, and were first seen on the last day of the month or April 1-16. It is the only April without a freezing temperature since 1878. This month combined with an unusually warm March to give us our warmest March-April in 65 years. It is no surprise that Lake Erie reached a temperature of 43 °F by the end of the month.

The total precipitation (all rain) was 2.07 inches (0.97 inches below normal). This year is the only year in history without measurable snow in March and April. The 63% of the possible sunshine was 13% above the average for the month. In conclusion the month was extremely hot, dry and sunny bringing out vegetation two to three weeks early, which was favorable for early migrants. Nineteen of the month's 30 days had average wind directions with a southern component.

Early arrivals: In the Town of Villenova in Chautauqua County during the April 11 Bird Count, Fran Rew and Audrey Horbett spotted our sixth earliest Spotted Sandpiper. On the 4th on Sage Road in Pomfret also in Chautauqua County, Terry Mosher observed a

"*Tringa*" species of shorebird with "grayish green" legs, spectacles, a bill "not much longer than its head" and "three dark bars" on its tail. This Solitary Sandpiper was 17 days before

the Verification Date Guide date. The only earlier records were two Solitary Sandpipers on the April 3, 1977 count. On the 16th Dean DiTommaso heard, saw and then photographed our earliest ever White-eyed Vireo at Tifft Nature Preserve (photographs below). Later many others also found this rare and early bird usually by first hearing its song that David Wheeler (on the 18th of the month) described as: "an emphatic 'Quick! Pick up the beer check' with the first note most



White-eyed Vireo photographed by Dean DiTommaso at Tifft Nature Preserve on April 16th.

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The Prothonotary is published monthly by the Buffalo Ornithological Society, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, NY 14211. Send address changes to Karen Landau, S-9195 State Road, Colden, NY 14033.

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emphasized." Tim Baird found the previous early White-eyed Vireo record at Allegany S. P. on April 22, 2005. The 30th Gerry Rising discovered the BOS's second April Red-eyed Vireo in a "dead tree" at Amherst State Park. The only other April record was observed on April 26, 1994 by Willie D'Anna and Betsy Potter at Golden Hill S. P.

On April 3rd the temperature reached 84 degrees so at Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant Kurt Fox was not entirely surprised to discover a Northern Rough-winged Swallow, he wrote "One bird over the marsh nearest the headquarters building. About 20 yards away, seen with binoculars.

Brown above, white underneath, excepting dusky upper breast and down flanks..." This is the earliest record now of this species. The previous early sighting was at Allegany S. P. April 5, 2005, by Tom LeBlanc. April 9th Jim Pawlicki found a Bank Swallow in a large group of swallows just to the east of the far break wall at Dunkirk Harbor. There is an early record of three Bank Swallows at Braddock Bay by Dobson and D. Miller on April 7, 1954. With the BOS territorial boundary changes in 1955, this year's record is now the earliest in our study area. On the same day at Point Gratiot Jim also heard and then saw our fifth earliest Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Three more were also seen at St. Columban's that day, but a report was not submitted.

The previous early record for Black-throated Green Warbler of April 12, 2001 (Debby Sharon; Tiff Nature Preserve) was eclipsed by a sighting on the April 11 Bird Count by Mike Zebehazy who first heard the si si si-soo si song of this species. Doug Happ described it in detail and carefully eliminated similar species:

"• The face was yellow but not the top of the head, so it was not a Hermit Warbler.

• The top of the head was olive green, so it wasn't a Golden-cheeked Warbler.

• The mark through the eye was olive not black so

it wasn't a Townsend's Warbler."

Also on the count Wayne Gall and Mark Nichter observed the third earliest Palm Warbler at Como Park in Lancaster. Wayne wrote in part: "The rusty red cap bordered below by yellow was clearly evident, and the repeated tail-pumping was unmistakable..." This species is increasingly more likely to be found on April Bird Counts than in the past. Since 1935 it has been found in counts in 1953, 1966, 1987, 2000, 2002, 2004, and nine individuals were documented in 2009!

Late Departures: As might be expected with all the unusually warm weather, there were no extremely late departures requiring verification reports. Even the Purple Sandpiper seen April 29th was nine days earlier than the late departure date in the Verification Date Guide.

Rarities: It is not often you find an extremely rare bird on the street where you live, but that is exactly what happened to Joe Mitchell. As he was driving down Crittenden Road in Alden he noticed a large bird that looked too big for a crow and a little too small for a Turkey Vulture on the Alden Intermediate School chimney. Realizing the bird could be a Black Vulture he went to his nearby home for optics and returned to confirm that it really was a Black Vulture! Although the bird was only there for less than five hours Joe quickly spread the word and several other observers got to observe and photograph it. There are four other records of Black Vultures in April, but to the best of my knowledge, this is the first record of a perched bird.

Although good numbers of American Golden-Plover are seen every fall, during spring it is very rare and there are only eight April sightings since 1963. David Wheeler and Jim Pawlicki were fortunate to find one on the 22nd just southwest of the intersection of Somerset-Hartland Townline Road and Johnson Creek Road. This location is often good in the spring for shorebirds, waterfowl, Sandhill Crane, and Glossy Ibis. Although American Golden-Plover are usually rare in spring, during 1954 there was an incredible total of 619 American Golden-Plovers observed at nine locations between April 18 and May 6 in what was then the BOS territory.



Black Vulture photographed by Joseph Mitchell perched on the Alden Intermediate School chimney on April 29th.

High Counts: When compared with the 1964-2004 Noteworthy Record Data Base we find that the 3,164 Turkey Vultures seen at the Hamburg Hawkwatch on April 1st are nearly twice as many as the next highest, while the 45 American Kestrels at the Ripley Hawkwatch on the 3rd are bettered by only one record (of 48) in the database. Besides bringing in very early first arrival migrants those warm south winds and clear skies brought in excellent numbers of hawks and vultures. Both the Ripley Hawkwatch and Hamburg Hawkwatch had record Aprils for Turkey Vultures with 5571 and 7997 birds.

For the first time ever, the Hamburg Hawkwatch's April topped 10,000 with 12,134 hawks and vultures.

I would like to acknowledge the following sources for providing information in the writing of The Month.

Beardslee, C. S. and H. D. Mitchell. 1965. *Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region*. Bulletin of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, vol. 22.

DiTommaso, D. D. Suggs et al. BOS Noteworthy Data Base 1964-2005.

McLaughlin, S. U. S. National Weather Service, Buffalo, New York.

Suggs, David et. al. 2002. *Seasonal Checklist of the Birds - The Niagara Frontier Region*. Buffalo Ornithological Society, Inc.

Spring 2010 Hamburg Hawk Watch Summary

Jim Landau

Weather Factors

March was mild, fairly dry and sunny. The big story was the complete lack of snow. Only a trace was recorded all month, tying 1946 as the only March ever without measurable snow. Lake Erie began the month with plenty of ice but a most unusual scenario ensued during the storm of the 12-14th. Very strong northeast winds held for three days and shoved all of the ice out of the eastern end of the lake and pushed it towards Cleveland. This ice then sloshed around and melted quickly in mid-lake. The Buffalo Harbor was clear of ice by the 23rd, almost a month early and the 9th earliest ice free date in the 84 years of recordkeeping.

A solitary Red-tailed Hawk started the count on opening day. Two days later four Bald Eagles started what would end up being a record season for them. However, the count really progressed in "fits and starts" until the middle of the month, when raptors finally began to migrate past in earnest.

April began with unprecedented record heat and cooled down only to near seasonal levels later in the month before ending with another taste of summer on its final day. It was fairly dry and very sunny as well. It was the second warmest April in the 140 years of recordkeeping in Buffalo, and it combined with the unusually warm March to give the Buffalo area its warmest March-April combination in 65 years. The



Dark phase Broad-winged Hawk photographed by Dean DiTommaso at Hamburg Hawk Watch on April 21st.

warm sunny conditions brought vegetation and blooms out 2-3 weeks early. Thursday, April 1st turned out to be a record-breaking one day count of 3,463 for the watch. Turkey Vultures contributed a new one day high of their own that day, with 3,164 passing by. Indeed, this movement also helped to set a new April high count of 12,134 raptors.

May began with a couple of very warm days but then turned quite unsettled as a deep upper level trough set up over the Great Lakes. Heavy thunderstorms during the evening of the 5th ushered in a very cool and wet period, with a northeast rainstorm on the 7th followed by a severe windstorm and lake seiche of the 8th. Temperatures fell to near freezing on the 10th and 11th with even a few snowflakes early on the 9th. A seasonable week followed, allowing an additional 250+ raptors to be counted, contributing to what turned out to be a new season high for the hawk watch.

Data Table (see below)

Species Reports

There were numerous Black Vulture sightings from elsewhere around the region this spring and given the record number of Turkey Vultures moving past the watch, our counters had every reason to anticipate a few Black Vultures in the mix. However, this was not to be, and Black Vulture was a "no show" for the second season in a row. Turkey Vulture continued an impressive increase, establishing a new watch record of 13,445. This marks the 6th consecutive season of record-setting flights.

Osprey appears to be on a steadily declining trend from its high of 151 in 2003, with only 90 passing the watch this season.

Bald Eagle numbers set a new watch high with a robust 63 individuals counted and are trending upward reassuringly. Always an anecdotal treat at the hawk watch, 2 Golden Eagles were seen on consecutive days in early March.

Northern Harrier sightings began encouragingly with 24 logged in March. However, fewer were seen in April and none in May, ending the season with 44 individuals and ongoing questions for this species of concern.

Sharp-shinned Hawk and Cooper's Hawk both enjoyed strong flights this season, although sharpies indicate a declining trend from a 10 year window of comparison. Northern Goshawk was absent at the watch for the 2nd season in a row.

Buteos as a group had their strongest showing (4,602) since 2003. Red-shouldered Hawk had an impressive count of 419, the 2nd highest at the watch. Rough-legged Hawk numbers were also up markedly from recent years. Broad-winged and Red-tailed Hawks both showed an increase, but not to any significant statistical degree.

As a group, falcons appear to be on a gradual downward trend, despite the growing regional reports of Merlins and nesting Peregrines.

The most significant single bird of the season, initially spotted by Dean DiTommaso, was an adult, dark morph Broad-winged Hawk on April 21, which is very rare in the East. (see his photo in this issue). It was witnessed by many observers, on what was the largest broad-wing flight of the season.

Hamburg Hawk Watch enjoyed its highest April and highest season totals to date, thanks in large part to those ever-increasing numbers of migrating Turkey Vultures. They only account for one piece of the puzzle, however. Subtracting them from the data we are still left with the strongest season in 7 years. No doubt the benign spring and an early ice-free Lake Erie contributed to some of the species successes of this season, but then how do we interpret some of the species declines? The answers remain elusive as we eagerly await next spring.

Fifty non-raptor species provided additional welcome interest for watchers, with Tundra Swan, Sandhill Crane, Pileated Woodpecker, American Pipit, Orange-crowned Warbler, and Rusty Blackbird of special note.

Hamburg Hawk Watch is an "all volunteer" spring watch. It is conducted at Lakeside Memorial Park on Route 75 in Hamburg and is about 1 mile from Lake Erie shore. Dedicated coverage runs from March 1 through May 15. All of the data generated is uploaded

	BV	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	UR	TOTAL
Mar		4947	3	17	24	93	58		371		647	25	2	15	2	3	38	6245
Apr		7997	64	29	20	447	73		47	2752	573	32		42	3	3	52	12134
May		501	6	17		43	5		1	60	94			1			10	738
2010		13445	73	63	44	583	136		419	2812	1314	57	2	58	5	6	100	19117
2009	2	13174	90	54	40	410	126		177	1334	1212	18	2	73	8	6	58	16784
2008		9812	92	24	48	423	116	2	118	2407	1052	16	3	67	10	3	90	14283
2007		9326	110	28	39	410	119	3	234	1575	1015	21	2	51	6	6	65	13010
2006	1	9160	113	43	50	609	121	1	238	2258	1294	40	4	63	6	4	131	14136
2005		7838	109	42	76	525	124	2	299	2503	1368	42	3	95	3	6	106	13141
2004	2	7723	91	39	104	395	85	1	270	1757	1167	95	2	74	4	3	126	11938
2003		8872	151	29	101	889	160	1	216	4998	1779	29	4	94	8	7	73	17411
2002		8505	103	23	65	611	129	2	218	1132	1223	21	1	75	7	2	120	12237
2001		5192	100	25	51	550	99	1	372	2360	981	33	4	76	5	1	120	9970

Hamburg Hawk Watch Data Table: This table presents the past 10 seasons, with this season's count data broken down by month. Cells with grey background indicate high counts for some of the 16 species identified at the watch. Highest March total: 7,236 (2009). Highest April total: 12,134 (2010). Highest May total: 1,167 (2007). Highest season total: 19,117 (2010).

Species abbreviations: BV Black Vulture TV Turkey Vulture OS Osprey BE Bald Eagle NH Northern Harrier SS Sharp-shinned Hawk CH Cooper's Hawk NG Northern Goshawk RS Red-shouldered Hawk BW Broad-winged Hawk RT Red-tailed Hawk RL Rough-legged Hawk GE Golden Eagle AK American Kestrel ML Merlin PG Peregrine Falcon UR Unknown Raptor.

to HawkCount.org, a database of information maintained by The Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA). HMANA is a membership-based organization committed to the conservation of raptors through the scientific study, enjoyment, and appreciation of raptor migration. The main web page <http://hmana.org/> contains a wealth of additional raptor information and links. Data from Hamburg and most other watches can be accessed directly at <http://hawkcount.org/>

Acknowledgements

Hamburg Hawk Watch would not exist without the help of our volunteer observers. The coordinator most gratefully acknowledges the considerable commitment of time and effort of Bruce Chilton, Mike Hamilton, Fran Rew, Bill Watson and Mike Zebehazy, who remain our "Hawk Watch Heroes." Thanks are also due to Tom Connare, Lewis Crowell, Bob and Donna Deleon, Doug Happ, Lynne Landon, Sharon Sisti and Paul and Nancy Vigyikan who kindly stepped up to fill in any gaps in coverage. Special recognition is given this season to Dean DiTommaso, Jim Pawlicki and David Wheeler for the many days they spent at the watch. Their birding skills made a significant contribution to this season's record count. Many others stopped by throughout the spring to witness the magic of migration and their support, knowledge and interest are always a welcome addition.

Weather summaries were obtained from the National Weather Service Office in Buffalo.

Anyone with suggestions, questions or comments regarding this year's watch are asked to please contact Jim Landau at 9195 State Road, Colden, NY 14033, by phone (716) 941-3869, or by e-mail: kjlandau@localnet.com

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (8th Edition - Revised 2009) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for the species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

* = First record for the year.

F - First record for the migration.

L - Last record for the migration.

(f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of young.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PV - Indicates Previously Documented

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Ave., Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Mute Swan	9	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
Tundra Swan	13	1	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
"	17	1	Yates	D'Anna
"	16; 21	1	Tifft NP	Salembier; Mitchell
Eurasian Wigeon	3; 4	2; 1	Oak Orchard WMA	Yoerg et al; D'Anna et al
American Wigeon	2	50	Tonawanda WMA	Mitchell
"	4	272	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
Green-winged Teal	2	30	Tonawanda WMA	Mitchell
Canvasback	10	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Redhead	13	1	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
Ring-necked Duck	4	57	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	4	82	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Greater Scaup	3, 10	1, 5	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Lesser Scaup	10, 17	60, 70	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Long-tailed Duck	13	1	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
Bufflehead	3, 10	57, 91	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Red-br. Merganser	12	202	Mouth of Silver Creek	Neveu
Ruddy Duck	10, 17	313, 260	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	13	1	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
"	18	12	Attica Reservoir	Fox
"	29	2	Tifft NP	Andrle
Red-throated Loon	2	3	Attica Reservoir	Fox
"	2	1	Orangeville	Fox
Common Loon	19	2	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell
Pied-billed Grebe	17	1	Gouinlock's Pond	Beattie, Dart
"	22	1	Alfred	Brooks
D.-crested Cormorant	9	772	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
"	10	203	Motor I.	Watson
* American Bittern	3F	1	Iroquois NWR	Gordon
"	4	1	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna, Potter
"	29	1	Bethany	Graney, Beattie
Great Blue Heron	6	121	Motor I.	Watson
"	15	81+ 94 n	Motor I.	Watson
Great Egret	6	36	Motor I.	Watson
"	30	57 + 36 n	Motor I.	Watson
"	14	1	Mouth of Catt. Creek	Neveu
"	19	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
Green Heron	25	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
Black-cr. Night-Heron	10	81	Goat I.	Watson

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	15	36	Motor I.	Watson
"	30	3	Tifft NP	D'Anna, DiTommaso
<u>Black Vulture</u>	29	1	Alden	Mitchell
"	29	1	Alden	Watson, Wheeler
Turkey Vulture	1; 2	3164; 1460	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson et al; DeLeon
"	3	382	Lakeside Beach SP	Yoerg, Henderson
Osprey	4	1 + n	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki, Watson
"	4	1 + n	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	6	2 + n	Beaver I. SP	Watson
"	27	2 + n	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
Bald Eagle	4	1 ad + n	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	9	1 ad	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson, Pawlicki
"	21	1 ad	Colden	J Landau
"	26	1	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
"	29	5	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Andrle et al
Northern Harrier	1	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	3	2	Lakeside Beach SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	6	1	Shelby	Beattie
"	9	1	Dunkirk Airport	Neveu
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	122	Ripley Hawkwatch	Randell et al
Northern Goshawk	19	1	Alden	Mitchell
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	5	Williamsville	Salembier
"	1	30	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Rew et al
Broad-winged Hawk	10	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	DeLeon, Andrle
"	21	1424	Ripley Hawkwatch	Randell et al
"	21	1316	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Zebehazy, Landau et al
"	21	1 dark	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Pawlicki, Landau et al
Red-tailed Hawk	1	147	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Rew et al
"	1	118	Ripley Hawkwatch	Randell, Mahoney et al
Rough-legged Hawk	1	24	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Rew et al
"	3	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Yoerg, Henderson
American Kestrel	3	45	Ripley Hawkwatch	Randell et al
Merlin	3	1	Darien Lakes SP	Mitchell
"	21	1 dead	Lancaster	Morgante
Peregrine Falcon	9	1	S. Grand I. bridge	Pawlicki, Watson
"	13	1	Darien	Mitchell
"	29	1	UB south campus	Yoerg
* Virginia Rail	6F	1	Tillman Road WMA	Salembier
"	24	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Beattie, Balduf
"	29	1	Tifft NP	Wheeler
* Common Moorhen	24F	4	Oak Orchard WMA	Beattie, Balduf
Sandhill Crane	2	2	Golden Hill SP	Potter, Morien
"	4	1	Yates	Wheeler
"	6	2	Tillman Road WMA	Salembier
"	15	2	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson et al
"	18	2	Tifft NP	Wheeler, Yoerg et al
"	20	1	Ripley Hawkwatch	Nixon
"	29	4	Tonawanda WMA	Wheeler
* Amer. Golden-Plover	<u>22</u>	2	Hartland	Wheeler, Pawlicki
Spotted Sandpiper	15	1	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell
"	25	1	Lewiston	D'Anna, Potter
* Solitary Sandpiper	<u>4E</u>	1	Pomfret	Mosher

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Greater Yellowlegs	28	15	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell
* Lesser Yellowlegs	3F	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Pectoral Sandpiper	17	7	Hartland	D'Anna
"	19	1	John White WMA	Mitchell
* Purple Sandpiper	29	1	Niagara Falls	Pawlicki, Watson
Wilson's Snipe	4	8	Alexander	Dart
"	5	12	Oakfield	Mitchell
"	24	1	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
Bonaparte's Gull	13	2	Tillman Road WMA	Salembier
Little Gull	4	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Iceland Gull	9	1	Rich Marina, Bflo.	Watson, Pawlicki
"	10	3	Goat I.	Watson, Pawlicki
"	24	1	Olcott	D'Anna
Lesser Black-b. Gull	4	1	Yates	Wheeler
"	10	2	Goat I.	Pawlicki, Watson
Glaucous Gull	9	1	Sheridan	Neveu
"	14	1	Mouth of Silver Creek	Neveu
* Caspian Tern	9F	5	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson, Pawlicki, Neveu
"	10	1	Fort Niagara SP	Rozmarynowycz
"	14	12	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
* Black Tern	29F	6	Iroquois NWR	Sare
* Common Tern	9F	1	Pt. Gratiot	Pawlicki, Watson
"	9F	157	Rich Marina, Bflo.	Watson
"	9F	1	Lancaster	Morgante
Short-eared Owl	1 - 9	2	North Collins	Francisco, Feltz
Nor. Saw-whet Owl	1, 2 - 12	2, 1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter
* Chimney Swift	21F	2	Delaware Pk, Bflo	Gordon
"	27	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Chilton
Red-bellied Wdpckr	24	1	Busti	Berry
* Yellow-b. Sapsucker	2F	2	Mill Road Park	Yerkovich
"	2F	2	North Tonawanda	Deed
"	3	1	Colden	J Landau
"	3	7	Bethany	Beattie
* Least Flycatcher	25F	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	30	1	Amherst SP	Yoerg
* White-eyed Vireo	<u>16F; 18</u>	1	Tifft NP	DiTommaso; Wheeler
Blue-headed Vireo	15	2	Arkwright	Neveu
"	16	2	Tifft NP	Salembier
* Warbling Vireo	30F	4	Tifft NP	D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	30F	2	Beaver I. SP	Hess
"	30F	3	Amherst SP	Yoerg
* Red-eyed Vireo	<u>30F</u>	2	Amherst SP	Rising
Common Raven	4, 7	2, 1	Alfred	Brooks
"	4	1	Arcade	Fox
"	4	1	Warsaw	Fox
"	15	2	Arkwright	Neveu
"	18	1	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
"	18	1	Attica Reservoir	Fox
Horned Lark	13	4	Tillman Road WMA	Salembier
Purple Martin	15	3	Williamsville	Salembier
	19	1	Grand I.	Lazarczyk
* N. Rough-w. Swallow	<u>3E</u>	1	Batavia WWTP	K&J Fox

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	6	2	Tillman Road WMA	Salembier
"	9	5	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	9	10	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson, Pawlicki
* Bank Swallow	<u>9F</u>	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson, Pawlicki
"	13	2	Tillman Road WMA	Salembier
* Cliff Swallow	27F	8 + 17 n	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	28	9 + 152 n	Tonawanda I.	Watson
* Barn Swallow	2F	1	Orangeville	Fox
"	3	1	Iroquois NWR	Gordon
Carolina Wren	8	1	Beaver I. SP	Hess
"	9	1	Pt. Gratiot	Watson, Pawlicki
"	9 - 15	1	Silver Creek	Neveu
* House Wren	15F	1	Tifft NP	Wheeler
"	21	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	21	1	Tifft NP	Mitchell
* Winter Wren	1	1	Wilson	Potter
"	3	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Yoerg, Henderson
Golden-cr. Kinglet	9	33	Sheridan	Neveu
* Ruby-cr. Kinglet	6F	1	Wilson	Potter, Rothman
"	9	2	Pt. Gratiot	Watson, Pawlicki
"	9	14	Sheridan	Neveu
* Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	<u>9F</u>	1	Pt. Gratiot	Pawlicki, Watson
"	12	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter
* Swainson's Thrush	30F	1	Williamsville	Salembier
* Hermit Thrush	5F	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Gordon
"	9	1	Pt. Gratiot	Watson, Pawlicki
* Wood Thrush	30F	1	Amherst SP	Yoerg
Gray Catbird	4	1	Mill Road Park	Yerkovich
* Brown Thrasher	2F	2	Alfred	Brooks
"	6	1	Tillman Road WMA	Salembier
American Pipit	3	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
* Blue-winged Warbler	30F	4	Tifft NP	D'Anna, DiTommaso et al
* Orange-cr. Warbler	30F	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Wheeler
* Nashville Warbler	27F; 29	2; 1	Amherst SP	Sowinski; Salembier
* Northern Parula	30F	1	Tifft NP	Watson et al
* Yellow Warbler	29F	1	Goat I.	Watson, Pawlicki
"	30	1	Amherst SP	Salembier, Yoerg, Rising
"	30	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	30	1	Beaver I. SP	Hess
"	30	7	Tifft NP	Watson, Pawlicki et al
Yellow-r. Warbler	15; 16	1; 2	Tifft NP	Watson; Salembier et al
"	20	3	Andover	Brooks
"	30	10	Amherst SP	Yoerg
Bl.-thr. Green Warb.	29; 30	2; 3	Amherst SP	Salembier; Yoerg
"	30	2	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
* Blackburnian Warbler	30F	2	Amherst SP	Salembier, Yoerg
* Pine Warbler	3F, 24	1, 2	Pomfret	Mosher
"	9	1	Pt. Gratiot	Watson, Pawlicki
"	9, 19	3, 5	Sheridan	Neveu
"	23	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	27	1	Allegany SP	Baird
Palm Warbler	26	1	Wilson	Potter
"	26	2	Alexander	Beattie, Dart

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
* Black-&-white Warb.	30F	4	Tifft NP	Watson et al
"	30F	1	Wilson	Potter
"	30F	1	Amherst SP	Salembier, Rising
* Ovenbird	30F	2	Tifft NP	D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	30F	1	Wilson	Potter
* Northern Waterthrush	26F	1	Alexander	Dart
"	30	2	Tifft NP	D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	30	1	Amherst SP	Salembier, Lazarczyk
"	30	1	Beaver I. SP	Hess
Louisiana Waterthrush	15	1	Tifft NP	DiTommaso, Watson
"	19	1	Villanova	Neveu
* Hooded Warbler	30F	1	Tifft NP	D'Anna et al
* Eastern Towhee	3F	1	North Buffalo	Gordon
"	5	1	Ashford	Rosenburg
Amer. Tree Sparrow	19L	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
Chipping Sparrow	2F	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	2F	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	3	1	North Buffalo	Gordon
Field Sparrow	3F	1	Darien Lakes SP	Mitchell
	4	2	Bethany	Beattie
* Savannah Sparrow	6F	1	Bethany	Dart, Beattie
"	7	1	Porter	D'Anna
Fox Sparrow	1	2	Alfred	Brooks
"	1	5	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	3	3	Lakeside Beach SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	6	6	Tillman Road WMA	Salembier
"	6	6	Darien Lakes SP	Mitchell
"	30	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
* Lincoln's Sparrow	30F	1	Tifft NP	D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	30	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
Swamp Sparrow	4	1	Kiantone	Berry
White-thr. Sparrow	30	80	Tifft NP	Watson
White-cr. Sparrow	17F	1	Eden (f)	Andrle
"	30	8	Tifft NP	D'Anna, DiTommaso et al
"	30	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	30	2	Bethany	Beattie
"	30	3	Beaver I. SP	Hess
Lapland Longspur	3L	20	Iroquois NWR	Gordon
* Rose-br. Grosbeak	27F	1	Beaver I. SP	Hess
"	30	3	Tifft NP	Watson et al
Rusty Blackbird	2	50	Orangeville	Fox
"	3	50	Iroquois NWR	Gordon
"	8	20	Beaver I. SP	Hess
"	25	20	Hamburg	Morgante
* Baltimore Oriole	30F	2	Tifft NP	D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	30F	1	Salamanca	Baird
"	30F	1	Beaver I. SP	Hess
"	30F	1	Amherst SP	Rising

Species, subspecies and named hybrids previously recorded:	142
New species, subspecies, and named hybrids recorded this month:	056
Total for the year 2010:	<u>198</u>

Statisticians Note: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please advise us of any errors in the Noteworthy Records.

Report of the 2010 Annual B.O.S. April Bird Count

Date: April 11, 2010

Weather: Terry Yonker, Compiler: Holly Sweeney

Weather Synopsis

Weather on the count day was slightly warmer than the previous day even though a cold front passed through the area just after midnight. Passage of the cold front was accompanied by strong gusty winds, but light westerlies were the rule for the remainder of the day. Overnight clouds led to light rain near dawn, but scattered clouds followed by midmorning. Temperatures remained in the upper forties and low fifties for most of the day and dropped to the low forties by late evening.

Greater Buffalo International Airport

Sunrise: 6:41AM EDT

Sunset: 7:52 PM EDT

TIME	WEATHER	TEMP	DEW PT	PRESSURE	DIR/WIND	REMARKS
12:00 am	Cloudy	50° F	32° F	1019.6 mb	SW 9 mph	Gusty Winds (1 am)
3:00 am	Cloudy	53	36	1021.0	W 10	Cold Front Passage
6:00 am	Cloudy, Light Rain	47	36	1023.6	NW 8	
9:00 am	Partly Cloudy	47	36	1026.1	W 7	
12:00 pm	Partly Cloudy	52	34	1026.5	W 3	
3:00 pm	Partly Cloudy	55	38	1025.4	SW 9	
6:00 pm	Partly Cloudy	54	33	1025.0	SW 8	
9:00 pm	Partly Cloudy	46	32	1026.0	SW 10	
12:00 am	Partly Cloudy	41	35	1027.2	SW 7	

Compilation: The following is a list of species recorded on the count together with the number of individuals tabulated. Bold face names indicate species for which acceptable written verification forms were received. **F** represents first and **L** last dates for the spring migration, * first date for the year. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the section numbers are given in parentheses.

G e e s e - H e r o n s			
Canada Goose	17527	Common Goldeneye	92
Mute Swan	15	Hooded Merganser	211
Tundra Swan	10	Common Merganser	159
unspecified swans	1 (7)	Red-breasted Merganser	4617
Wood Duck	350	Ruddy Duck	443
Gadwall	174	unspecified ducks	5 (20)
American Wigeon	744	unspecified waterfowl	1 (20)
American Black Duck	33	Ring-necked Pheasant	22
Mallard	1116	Ruffed Grouse	23
Blue-winged Teal	63	Wild Turkey	267
Northern Shoveler	43	Red-throated Loon	42 (3)
Northern Pintail	708	Common Loon	79
Green-winged Teal	193	Pied-billed Grebe	95
Redhead	38 (3,8,10)	Horned Grebe	174
Ring-necked Duck	703	Red-necked Grebe	21 (1,3,4)
Greater Scaup	96	Double-crested Cormorant	2413
Lesser Scaup	221	American Bittern	1 (10)
unspecified scaup	48 (25)	Great Blue Heron	329
Surf Scoter	75 (3,4)	Great Egret	16
White-winged Scoter	56	* Green Heron	F 2 (13,21)
Long-tailed Duck	1049	Black-crowned Night-Heron	130 (2,9)
Bufflehead	2979		
V u l t u r e s - C r a n e s			
Turkey Vulture	1467	Sharp-shinned Hawk	127
Osprey	51	Cooper's Hawk	55
Bald Eagle	45	Northern Goshawk	1 (19)
Northern Harrier	31	Red-shouldered Hawk	56

Broad-winged Hawk	37		Peregrine Falcon	1	(11)
Red-tailed Hawk	397		unspecified hawks	4	(12,20)
Rough-legged Hawk	4	(6,14)	Virginia Rail	2	
unspecified buteos	4	(5,10)	* Sora	F 1	(19)
American Kestrel	159		American Coot	117	
Merlin	1	(2)	Sandhill Crane	2	(7)
Plovers – Terns					
Killdeer	392		Bonaparte's Gull	15371	
Greater Yellowlegs	34		Ring-billed Gull	28072	
Lesser Yellowlegs	4	(16,23)	Herring Gull	2520	
* Spotted Sandpiper	F 1	(16)	Iceland Gull	1	(2)
* Pectoral Sandpiper	F 56	(4,23)	Great Black-backed Gull	241	
* Dunlin	F 1	(3)	unspecified gulls	700	(7)
Wilson's Snipe	62		Caspian Tern	76	
American Woodcock	23		Common Tern	332	
Little Gull	6	(2,3,6)			
Pigeons - Swallows					
Rock Pigeon	998		Northern Flicker	865	
Mourning Dove	1424		Pileated Woodpecker	47	
Eastern Screech-Owl	7		Eastern Phoebe	272	
Great Horned Owl	10		* Blue-headed Vireo	F 15	
Barred Owl	9		Blue Jay	951	
Short-eared Owl	1	(4)	American Crow	2665	
Northern Saw-whet Owl	2	(3)	Common Raven	32	
Belted Kingfisher	100		Horned Lark	199	
Red-headed Woodpecker	5	(22,28)	* Purple Martin	F 12	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	278		Tree Swallow	1079	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	283		N. Rough-winged Swallow	41	
Downy Woodpecker	408		Barn Swallow	43	
Hairy Woodpecker	123				
Tits - Waxwings					
Black-capped Chickadee	1425		Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	4	(1,12)
Tufted Titmouse	244		Eastern Bluebird	244	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	57		Hermit Thrush	31	
White-breasted Nuthatch	250		American Robin	6471	
Brown Creeper	106		Gray Catbird	11	
Carolina Wren	22		Northern Mockingbird	26	
			Brown Thrasher	30	
Winter Wren	41		European Starling	11729	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	303		American Pipit	96	(12,13)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	100		Cedar Waxwing	69	
Warblers – House Sparrows					
Yellow-rumped Warbler	26		Fox Sparrow	29	
* Black-throated Green Warbler	F 1	(8)	Song Sparrow	1781	
Pine Warbler	23		Swamp Sparrow	196	
* Palm Warbler	F 1	(12)	White-throated Sparrow	105	
* Louisiana Waterthrush	F 1	(23)	White-crowned Sparrow	18	
Eastern Towhee	71		Dark-eyed Junco	1066	
American Tree Sparrow	18		unspecified sparrows	3	(13)
Chipping Sparrow	462		Northern Cardinal	1067	
Field Sparrow	160		Red-winged Blackbird	11356	
* Vesper Sparrow	F 19		Eastern Meadowlark	164	
Savannah Sparrow	177		Rusty Blackbird	723	

Common Grackle	4659	Pine Siskin	5 (12,13,28)
Brown-headed Cowbird	1059	American Goldfinch	905
Purple Finch	162	House Sparrow	1539
House Finch	380	unspecified birds	2 (13)

SUMMARY INFORMATION: Total species observed: 145
Total individual birds observed: 143,144

COMPARATIVE INFORMATION: Associated charts, available from Holly Sweeney, compare this year's records with those for 2001-2009 and those for 1935-2009. A chart listing totals for each species per section for 2010 is also available. In addition the following notes are added:

INDIVIDUAL SPECIES SINCE 1935:

Highest count since 1935 (x the average of the previous 74 years): Surf Scoter, 75 (75x avg.); Bald Eagle, 45 (11.2x avg.); Cooper's Hawk, 55 (4.1x avg.); Common Tern, 332 (18.4x avg.); Red-bellied Woodpecker, 278 (9.2 x avg.); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 283 (9.4 x avg.)(matches 2009); Blue-headed Vireo, 15 (50x avg.); Common Raven, 32 (10.6 x avg.); Tufted Titmouse, 244 (6.1x avg.); Brown Thrasher, 30 (10x avg.); Pine Warbler, 23 (23x avg.); Eastern Towhee, 71 (4.7x avg.).

Lowest count since 1935 (average number seen during the previous 74 years): Canvasback, 0(386 avg.)(matches low count of 1987).

Rare count sightings: Black-throated Green Warbler, 1 (1st count record).

INDIVIDUAL SPECIES SINCE 2001:

Highest count in past decade (x the average of the previous 10 years): Mute Swan, 15 (1.5 x avg.)(matches 2006); American Wigeon, 744(2.5 x avg.); Surf Scoter, 75 (18x avg.); Bald Eagle, 45 (2.6 x avg.); Cooper's Hawk, 55 (1.7 x avg.); Red-shouldered Hawk, 56 (2.6x avg.); Pectoral Sandpiper, 56 (9.3 x avg.); Bonaparte's Gull, 15,371 (1.2 x avg.); Common Tern 332, (7.5 x avg.); Red-headed Woodpecker 5, (2.5 x avg.)(matches 2002); Red-bellied Woodpecker, 278 (1.9 x avg.); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 283 (2.4 x avg.)(matches 2009); Blue-headed Vireo, 15 (7.5 x avg.); Common Raven, 32 (2.1x avg.); Tufted Titmouse, 244 (1.4x avg.); Gray Catbird, 11 (3.6x avg.); Brown Thrasher, 30 (3.7 x avg.); Pine Warbler, 23 (4.6 x avg.); Eastern Towhee, 71 (2.6 x avg.); Field Sparrow, 160 (2.3 x avg.).

Lowest count in past decade (average number seen during the previous 10 years): Canvasback, 0 (102); Common Merganser, 159 (387); Northern Harrier, 31 (60); American Tree Sparrow, 18 (173); Song Sparrow, 1781 (1989); Dark-eyed Junco, 1066 (2265); House Finch, 380 (608).

Rare count sightings: First decade records: Black-throated Green Warbler, 1; Second decade records: none; Third decade records: none.

SIGNIFICANT POPULATION INCREASES AND DECREASES:

This report continues a change instituted in the April 2008 count report for the analysis of population change. Prior to 1966 the number of observers on these counts was fairly stable at around 150. In 1966 the Lake Erie Bird Club of Dunkirk, the Cattaraugus Bird Club, the Allegany Bird Club and the Jamestown Audubon Society began participating in the counts and the number of observers increased to approximately 250 where it has remained ever since. Given this stable number of observers it may be more revealing to compare population changes from the decade starting in 1966 to the current decade, rather than the entire count period to the current decade, as has been done in the past. And to make this comparison more scientifically meaningful t-testing has been used to compare the birds observed in the two ten year periods in order to determine if there has been a statistically significant change in the population of each recorded species. Those species which are statistically significantly different at the 95% confidence level are listed below.

INCREASES: *The numbers shown indicate the increase multiple between the first decade (1966-1975) and the last (2001-2010) except when no sightings occurred in the first decade, in which case the numbers in parenthesis indicate the total number observed in each of the two decades:*

Mute Swan (0/102); Wood Duck, 4.1x; Gadwall, 4.5x; Mallard, 1.6x; Northern Shoveler, 6.2x; Green-winged Teal, 2.4x; Ring-necked Duck, 2.4x; Bufflehead, 2.6x; Red-breasted Merganser, 3.2x; Ruddy Duck, 16.6x; Wild Turkey, 11.4x; Red-throated Loon, 54x; Common Loon, 7.3x; Double-crested Cormorant, 9945X; Great Blue Heron, 4x; Great Egret, 30.3x; Green Heron (0/14); Black-crowned Night-Heron, 14x; Turkey Vulture, 23.1x; Osprey, 6.4x; Bald Eagle, 41.4x; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 6.4x; Cooper's Hawk, 3.7x; Northern Goshawk, 9x; Red-tailed Hawk, 1.8x; Merlin (0/26); Peregrine Falcon (0/21); Virginia Rail, 29x; Sora, 6x; Sandhill Crane, (0/16); Greater Yellowlegs, 3.5x; Lesser Yellowlegs, 4x; Little Gull, 9.9x; Bonaparte's Gull, 5.3x; Ring-billed Gull, 5.8x; Herring Gull, 2.4x; Iceland Gull, 8.7x; Lesser Black-backed Gull (0/19); Glaucous Gull, 2.8x; Great Black-backed Gull, 15.1x; Caspian Tern, 601x; Barred Owl, 4.3x; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 17.4x; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 8.6x; Pileated Woodpecker, 2.5x; Common Raven (0/169); Tree Swallow, 4.8x; Northern Rough-winged Swallow, 103.6x; Barn Swallow, 6x; Tufted Titmouse, 9.4x; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2.1x; Carolina Wren, 6.3x; Winter Wren, 2.4x; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 6.1x; Eastern Bluebird, 2.8x; Hermit Thrush, 6.6x; Gray Catbird, 2.9x; Northern Mockingbird, 7.6x; Yellow-

rumped Warbler, 9.4x; Pine Warbler, 72x, Chipping Sparrow, 5.2x; Swamp Sparrow, 2.8x; White-throated Sparrow, 2.1x; Northern Cardinal, 1.7x; Purple Finch, 2.5x; House Finch (0/5817); American Goldfinch, 2.9x.

DECREASES: *The numbers shown indicate the percentage decrease between the first decade (1966-1975) and the last (2001-2010):*
 Snow Goose, 79%; Canada Goose, 65%; Tundra Swan, 76%; American Black Duck, 86%; Blue-winged Teal, 61%; Canvasback, 81%; Redhead, 68%; Greater Scaup, 86%; Common Goldeneye, 69%; Common Merganser, 75%; Ringnecked Pheasant, 84%; Ruffed Grouse, 41%; Killdeer, 31%; Snowy Owl, 100%; Long-eared Owl, 86%; Loggerhead Shrike, 100%; Horned Lark, 55%; American Robin, 23%; European Starling, 59%; American Tree Sparrow, 83%; Vesper Sparrow, 90%; Song Sparrow, 45%; Red-winged Blackbird 62%; Eastern Meadowlark, 81%; Common Grackle, 73%; Brown-headed Cowbird, 64%; Evening Grosbeak, 99%; House Sparrow, 68%.

OBSERVERS (Section compilers are printed in **bold face**.):

- Section 1: **Lynne Landon**, Terry Yonker
- Section 2: Paul Benham, **John Black**, Brad Clements, Jean Hampson, Bob Highcock, Kayo Roy, Dan Salisbury, Maggie Smiley
- Section 3: Bill Broderick, Ken Cohen, Tina Cohen, **Willie D'Anna**, Dean DiTommaso, Lynn Landon, Betsy Potter, Vicki Rothman, Terry Yonker
- Section 4: Julie Eberhart, Kyle Horton, Holly Sweeney, **Bill Watson**
- Section 5: Donald Brasure, Sally Castren, Morgan Jones, Susan O'Donnell, **Thomas O'Donnell**, Joyce Vana
- Section 6: **Jerry Chapple**, Nina Chapple, Karin Schneider, John Stevens
- Section 7: Blayne Farnan, Jean Farnan, **Mike Hamilton**, Bill Rogers, Patricia Rogers, Jim Rozanski, Elizabeth Wells, Margaret Wooster
- Section 8: Doug Happ, Marcie Jacklin, **Mike Zebehazy**
- Section 9: Olive Burch, Tom Burke, Lewis Crowell, Dave Friedrich, Michael Galas, Sylvia Galas, Ron Hacker, Sue Hacker, Chris Hollister, Bill Hudson, Bernie Kester, Jerry Lazarczyk, Debbie Milleville, Susan O'Donnell, Tom O'Donnell, **Gerry Rising**, Maria Zawistowski, Larry Zilliox
- Section 10: Dr. Edward Crohn, Donna DeLeon, Robert DeLeon, David Gordon, **Donald Roberson**, Mary Ann Stegmeier, John Welte, Martha Welte, Paul Ziebarth, Virginia Ziebarth
- Section 11: Peter Corrigan, Teresa Corrigan, Alec Human, Alexis Lang, Keith Lang, **Chuck Rosenburg**, Richard Salembier, Tim Simon
- Section 12: Mark Cassell, Gregory Coniglio Wayne Gall, Linda Holmes, **Mike Morgante**, Gary Nichter, Mark Nichter, Sarah Piecuch, Gail Seamans, Janine Shepherd, Steve Shepherd
- Section 13: Sarah Balduf, **Douglas Beattie**, Carol Britton, Jenny Crane, Elaine Dart, Dwayne Fonda, Katie Fonda, Taler Fonda, Kurt Fox, Tad Gerace, Jack Hartwig, Jody Laird, Jim Ochterski, Diane Rebmman, Michael Rickard, Joseph Salvatore, Jane Schmieder, Dana Stringham, Diane Stringham, Don Thureau, Ginny Tiede
- Section 14: Robert Andrie, Ken Brandes, Joanne Dobbler, Tim Goff, **Fred Harrington**, Glena Leous, Mark Leous, Patty Madigan, Chris Newton, Sandy Radigan, Sue Saunders, Sharon Sisti
- Section 15: **Bill Bogacki**, Ed Ratajczak, Sally Uzunov
- Section 16: Patricia Andrie, Robert Andrie, Thomas Connare, Audrey Horbett, **Frances Rew**, George Robbins
- Section 17: Joe Mitchell, **James Pawlicki**
- Section 18: **Bruce Chilton**, Jim Landau, Grace Vedder, Jim Wojewodzki
- Section 19: **Russell Allen**, Ron Anderson, James Fegley, John Hasper, Dan Merritt, Meg Merritt, Louise Mills, Lawrence Mullen, Virginia Norton, Sean Phelan, Michael Raybuck, Theresa Rork, Jean Wilson, **Larry Wilson**, Richard Wilson
- Section 20: Sylvia Clarke, **Paul Farver**, Joanne Goetz, Tom Goetz, Joe Gula, Carol Hardenburg, Terry Mahoney, Terry Mosher, David Neveu, Lucille Neveu, Bob Peterson, Beverly Ruska, John Ruska, Marty Sanden, Mary Sherman, Jeanine Smith, Ted Taft
- Section 21: Ranjit Laha, Sue Lawton, Jessie Nelson, Joanne Nelson, **Linda O'Brien**, Bill Seleen, Linda Seleen, Bob Sundell
- Section 22: Ann Beebe, Laura Damon, Nancy Karp, Ranjit Laha, Sue Lawton, Julie Leonard, Miley Miller, **Linda O'Brien**, Gil Randell, Jann Randell, Harold Reynolds, Herb Smith, Bob Sundell
- Section 23: Les Greenwald, Ranjit Laha, Ruth Lundin, Steve Maggio, Miley Miller, **Linda O'Brien**, Bob Petrolline, Jean Pigman, Bruce E. Robinson, Bruce J. Robinson, Joanne Robinson, Tom Simmons, Bob Sundell, Jerry Swanson, Kay Swanson
- Section 24: Mike DeSha, **Tim Baird**, Tom LeBlanc, Jeff Reed
- Section 25: **Tim Baird**, Joyce Ermer, Mike Ermer, Mike Landowski, Jim Pomeroy, Jeff Reed, James VanScoy, Regina VanScoy
- Section 26: **Russell Allen**, Bill Roeske, Jane Roeske, Bob Smalley, Bruce Smalley, Sally Smalley, Denton Willett
- Section 27: **Russell Allen**, Gerald Lazarczyk, Helen Link, Dan Ramsey, Evelyn Ramsey, Nicole Ramsay, Wilma Sanford
- Section 28: **Russell Allen**, Dan Babcock, Donald Brink, Betsy Brooks, Ken Burdick, Mary Lou Cartledge, Carla Coch, **Diane Converso**, Peter Finlay, John Gradoni, Geri Hills, Ralph Hills, Pat Hulse, Wayne Kellogg, Barbara Kubiak, Sue Lange, Woodie Lange, Barry Lash, Martha Lash, Kathy McDonald, Mary Ormsby, Sean Phelan, Ann Pipal, Bob Pipal, Sally Reinschmidt, Ernie Rositzke, Roger Smith, Maureen Soule, Terah Soule, Megan Stoffel, Wilma Taggart, Linda Travers, Barbara Ware, Katie Weiman, Mary Lu Wells, **Suzanne Wood**

Number of observers: 262



www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org

July - August Calendar & Announcements

Buffalo-Niagara Regions Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

July 25: Sunday: Canadian shoreline of Lake Erie for shorebirds. Leader: Doug Happ (649-1297). Meet at 7:00 AM at Vermont and Busti near the Peace Bridge. We will car pool from there. Among other places, we will be going to Rock Point Provincial Park, which charges \$13.00 Canadian per car for entry, so bring Canadian money if you have it. Make sure you have a passport, pass port card, Nexus, or enhanced drivers license.

Aug. 15: Sunday. Buffalo Ornithological Society Shorebird Count. Coordinator Lynne Landon (745-9129 or llandon@daemen.edu).

Aug. 29: Sunday: Canadian shoreline of Lake Erie for shorebirds. Leader: Doug Happ (649-1297). Meet at 7:00 AM at Vermont and Busti near the Peace Bridge. We will car pool from there. Among other places, we will be going to Rock Point Provincial Park, which charges \$13.00 Canadian per car for entry, so bring Canadian money if you have it. Make sure you have a passport or card, Nexus, or enhanced drivers license.

BOS Website is Back! The Buffalo Ornithological Society has an updated website under a new domain. The site is still under construction, but you will already find much of the previous content there, as well as some new features. Keep coming back as we enhance the content. To submit materials for possible inclusion, send to donnadeleon@gmail.com. Our new site URL is <http://www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org>

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Western Sandpiper	75	6, 84, 92
White Ibis	75	91, 100
Yellow Warbler	75	49
Yellow-headed Blackbird	75	86
Yellow-throated Warbler	75	72
Jan.= p.1-8 + addendum, Feb.= p.9-20, Mar.= p.21-28, Apr.= p.29-36, May = p.37-52, June = p.53-66, July = p.67-74, Aug.= p. 75-80, Sept.= p.81-88, Oct.= p.89-96, Nov.= p.97-108, Dec.= p.109-116		

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Berry	James	301 Park St.	Jamestown	NY	14701-8033	716-665-2473 X225	jberry@rtpi.org
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Welte	John & Martha	112 Capen Blvd.	Amherst	NY	14226-3053	716-835-0794	johnwwelte@verizon.net
Wheeler	David	1590 Southwestern Blvd., F-33	West Seneca	NY	14224-4557	716-805-2430	tigger64@aol.com
Wojewodzki	James L.	14047 Day Rd.	Holland	NY	14080-9736	716-537-9534	tanager57@localnet.com
Wolfling	Cyril T.	12307 Westwood Rd.	Alden	NY	14004-9669	716-937-9300	
Zawistowski	Maria	5225 Bridle Path Ln.	Lewiston	NY	14092-2070	716-297-5959	mariazawistowski@aol.com
Zebehazy	Michael A.	7635 Jewett Holmwood Rd	Orchard Park	NY	14127-3007	716-662-6987	zebs@roadrunner.com
Ziebarth	Paul & Virginia	49 Wansfell Rd.	Amherst	NY	14226-4650	716-837-9229	pzandvz@verizon.net
Zielinski	Eugene	1005 Pickerel Ln.	Augusta	GA	30907-3131	706-650-8959	eez55@earthlink.net

The Prothonotary

BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 76, No. 6 June 2010



THE MONTH: May

Gerry Rising

Steve McLaughlin of the local weather office summarized it best: "a memorable spring for Buffalo." May was mostly very warm: the average 60.2° more than 3° above average making this month the 12th warmest in 140 years, this despite a week from the 7th to the 13th with temperatures 10° below average. Temperatures reached the 80s on ten days at the end of the month. Rainfall of 2.84 inches was a half-inch below normal, but virtually all of that fell in the first 13 days. All this simply extended the conditions of the previous two months making this spring 3rd warmest and among the driest in weather history.

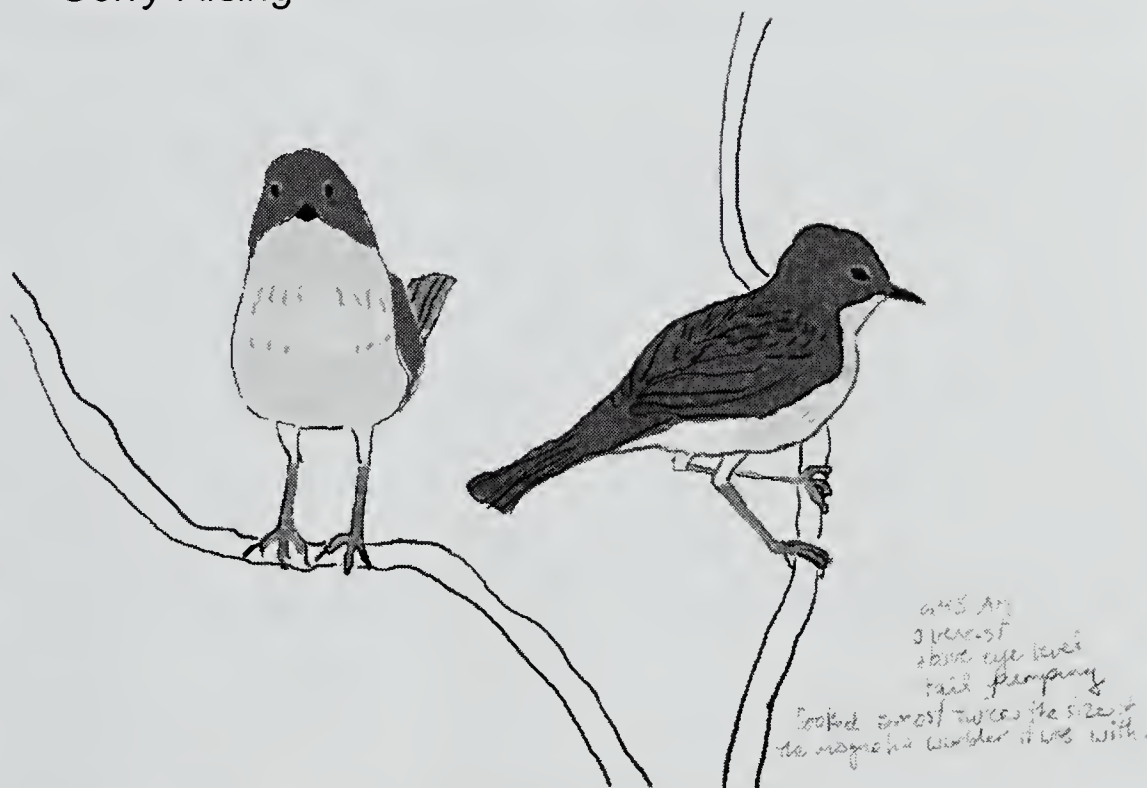
One effect of this early good weather: leaves. Good for birds, tough for birders. I recall no spring when songbirds were harder to see.

The usual migration-laggard waterfowl were noted, most early in the month: Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, both scaup, Redhead, Red-throated Loon and Horned Grebe; others remained in larger numbers: 669 Long-tailed Ducks, 299 Red-breasted Mergansers and 70 Common Loons, all on the May 16 Count. Interesting: 20 Brant on Count section 2 and the seemingly regular Eurasian Wigeon at INWR. In contrast only 4 black ducks were reported.

Nice to notice a few grouse in Region 8 on the Count. Perhaps this means that they have passed beyond the low point of their cycle. Nice numbers too of both cuckoo species, hopefully addressing what

appeared to me to be an increase in the number of tent caterpillar nests.

The litany of "good birds" is longer than usual: Snowy Egrets unless a single bird toured the



Kirtland's Warbler sketched by Betsy Potter after viewing this bird in her yard in Wilson on May 18, 2010.

region; 4 Sandhill Cranes, Count Sections 4 & 5; Iceland Gulls, rare on a May Count, in Section 2; 2 Forster's Terns, Count Section 4; King Rail in Tonawanda WMA on the 22nd; a late Purple Sandpiper on Goat Island on the 7th; an Olive-sided Flycatcher, Count Section 11; White-eyed Vireos on the 15th and 21st (most records of this species are much earlier, do these represent another southern species moving into the region?); several Sedge Wrens; a single Chat in Wilson on the 8th; a Summer Tanager there on the 22nd; and three Clay-colored Sparrow reports, Almond on the 1st, Wilson on the 14th and the Count Section 2. But, of course, the first state Kirtland's Warbler in Wilson was easily the best bird of the month (see below).

To me the happiest reports this spring are those of Red-headed Woodpeckers: 31 on the Count and others, many from new areas, through the month. You have to go back almost 30 years to find counts that high. One example: Mike Levy, the one-time *Buffalo News* outdoor writer, had one coming to his suburban Amherst feeder all month and he lives only a quarter mile from Main Street.

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Of course, the major May story is warblers and this month's Count was a good one: the 5254 warblers counted higher by 24% than the decade average and 45% above the full 1935-2009 average. The biggest story this year was Northern Parulas, their numbers almost three times the decade average. Good numbers too for species that are normally past their peak on the count: Palm Warbler in particular more than three times that decade average; many Black-and-White Warblers remaining as well. That week long cold spell may have held those species here. Bay-breasted Warbler numbers were down, their migration possibly delayed but I have been seeing fewer

of these birds each year. Finally, Prairie Warbler numbers well up as their Southern Tier locales are being identified.

The series of reports of Golden-winged Warblers I find a reversal of what has been happening in recent years. We had come to the point at which there were more hybrid Brewster's Warblers than golden-wings as the dominant Blue-winged Warblers moved north to take over the pioneer golden-wing territory. Not this May: golden-wings outnumbered Brewster's 3:1 on the Count and 6:1 otherwise. Unless this is an aberration, so much for that theory.

Savannah Sparrow and Indigo Bunting numbers are apparently okay despite my lack of personal observations of these species.

Excerpts from the many fine verification reports: Betsy Potter and Willie D'Anna on Clay-colored Sparrow song: "a low flat buzz-buzz-buzz, with up to five or six buzzes per song. The song was much lower pitched than that of a Blue-winged or Golden-winged Warbler." Mike Morgante on King Rail: "On the advice that this bird was not very vocal (not a frequent responder) but had responded to the first playback the day before, I made sure to listen closely after the first playback of King Rail tape calls (grunt, kick, kick-rrr). A response sounding identical to the grunt calls on tape

was heard immediately after the tape playback. It was a series of approximately five grunt calls (whump – whump – whump – whump). They were even paced. More noticeable was that they were deeper than what I'm used to hearing (i.e. Virginia Rail)."

Potter on Kirtland's Warbler, a state first if accepted: "I entered the brushy area of our yard and followed the song of a magnolia warbler to the southwest corner, where a silver maple had recently blown down and left the area fairly open. About twenty-five feet from me in a loose tangle of grapevine, I saw the singer and another bird that was quite a bit larger. This larger bird was moving relatively slowly for a warbler, hopping from branch to branch, feeding. I first noted the bright lemon yellow throat that continued as a lighter wash down to the belly and faint streaking below the throat and on the chest. I did not immediately recognize this bird, which is important because I know our warblers so well by now that I can identify them by tiny glimpses. There was nothing obscuring the bird – it was in the open. Although it was overcast and 6:45 in the morning, I could see it very well with my binoculars. It was above eye level, perhaps 9 feet off the ground. When the bird gave me a side view and I saw the head and back were a blue gray color, I got excited! I also noted the black streaking on the back and the white undertail coverts. Then I noticed it was bobbing its tail repeatedly. At this point I believed I had a Kirtland's warbler and could not believe I did not bring my camera on my first walk of the day." (See Betsy's sketch.)



White-rumped Sandpiper photographed (above) by Willie D'Anna in Hartland on May 1, 2010. Below, same bird behind two Least Sandpipers.





May sightings and photographs from the B.O.S. Region. Clockwise from upper left: Sedge Wren at Tifft Nature Preserve (photograph by Chris Newton); Philadelphia Vireo at Forest Lawn Cemetery (Jim Pawlicki); Summer Tanager at Wilson-Tuscarora State Park (Chris Newton); Whip-poor-will at Darien Lakes State Park (Joseph Mitchell); Northern Parula at Goat Island (Karen Lee Lewis) and Snowy Egret at Tonawanda WMA (Joseph Mitchell).

Statisticians Note Regarding Kirtland's Warbler Record

Mike Morgante

Betsy Potter had a morning walk around her yard in Wilson near Lake Ontario that she'll always remember. Early on May 18, 2010 she was drawn to a Magnolia Warbler in an open area among some tangles about 25 feet away. She then saw a larger warbler next to it that was moving "quite a bit slower" as it foraged that she did not immediately recognize. The warbler had a lemon yellow throat and belly with some faint streaking, a bluish gray head and back, black streaking on the back, white undertail coverts, and it was bobbing its tail repeatedly, which made her realize she had a Kirtland's Warbler. After studying the bird for a few seconds longer to make a mental picture, she dashed off to get a camera, but the bird was not found again despite hours of searching by several birders. Betsy made a computer sketch and wrote down details of her sighting before consulting a field guide.

In reviewing this verification report and available references on Kirtland's Warbler, Tim Baird and I both felt the identification was correct. Further, there seems little doubt to the accuracy of the identification based on the sketch and description. The only other warblers that regularly pump their tails with plumage that could possibly be confused with Kirtland's are Prairie and Palm, neither of which could be confused in this sighting. Betsy's skills with warbler identification were also a reassuring factor.

Tim and I gave a lot of thought as to whether this brief view with a sketch and report provided enough detail for a potential first record for B.O.S. There can be a double standard when it comes to potential first records, in that exceptional evidence is desired for a first record and such reports face much greater scrutiny. Avian records committees have different ways of handling potential first records, with many now taking a very conservative position in requiring that photographs are included and multiple observers submit acceptable reports. While there are no set B.O.S. requirements for potential first records for our study area, Tim and I gave much consideration to the amount of evidence from this brief sighting. Ultimately, our judgment was to accept the report as the first record for B.O.S. largely based on our belief in the accuracy of the identification.

With acceptance of this verification report, there are now 390 species, 22 recognizable subspecies, and two named hybrids on the official B.O.S. list. This is the second new species addition since the eighth edition of the Date Guide was issued in 2006. This sighting and report were of similar circumstances (i.e., no photograph, single observer/report) to the previous two species added to the B.O.S. study area list (Say's Phoebe at Batavia WWTP and White-winged Dove in Silver Creek) except that neither of those were also potential firsts for New York State. To that end, it is unlikely that this sighting and report will gain acceptance by the New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC) to become the first state record

because it was a single observer sighting and without a photograph.

While there has not been an officially accepted record of Kirtland's Warbler in New York State yet (note: this report has not undergone NYSARC review yet), there have been other reports in the state. Bob Spahn shared some information with me from a work in progress by Bob Marcotte on bird records in the Rochester area. There were five May or September sightings between 1919 and 1943 on the Monroe County annotated checklist (1984); however, all were considered unsatisfactory as records but with enough information to warrant inclusion of Kirtland's Warbler on the checklist with an asterisk as hypothetical (R. Marcotte personal communication, fide R. Spahn). Spahn and Marcotte found a Genesee Ornithological Society article describing a close observation on 28 May 1954 in Brighton that included a singing bird, pumping tail, and an observer (Joseph Taylor) who was very familiar with the species from owning a cottage within the species breeding range in Michigan (R. Marcotte personal communication, fide R. Spahn). Spahn also indicated that there have been several reports in the Rochester area in recent years; however, without providing verification reports or other evidence such sightings will only be "recent rumors" or historical hearsay. This is further reason to commend Betsy for preparing a sketch and verification report.

We certainly hope that there will be future sightings (and reports) of Kirtland's Warbler in the B.O.S. study area and New York State. This federally-endangered species has been increasing in population in recent decades, especially in the last decade. The population increase is best documented by the highest counts of singing males in recent years (1,800+) since counts were initiated in 1951 (NatureServe 2009). It has also slightly expanded its breeding range beyond Michigan into Wisconsin and Ontario. With a wintering range believed to be limited to the Bahamas, there would seem to be a rather restricted migration pathway to and from Michigan; however, the B.O.S. study area is not extremely far off course for a wayward migrant to occur. Spring migrants (May) are now nearly annual, but still very rare, in Ohio and Ontario. There are at least four accepted records in Pennsylvania (two in May, two in September), including one from nearby Presque Isle State Park on May 14, 1997 (McWilliams and Brauning, 2000). One was even found on June 2, 2008 in coastal Maine for the first well-documented record for New England (W. Petersen, 2009).

Citations:

McWilliams, G. and D. Brauning. 2000. *The Birds of Pennsylvania*. Cornell University Press.

NatureServe. 2009. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 7.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: August 5, 2010).

Petersen, W. 2009. New England regional report. *North American Birds*, vol. 62, no. 4.

Orange wing-tags on Great Egrets at Chantry and Nottawasaga Islands

Bill Watson



(Above) Wing-tagged Great Egret and (Below) bird bander Cindy Cartwright holding a wing-tagged Great Egret from Chantry Island at Southhampton, Ontario on June 25, 2010.

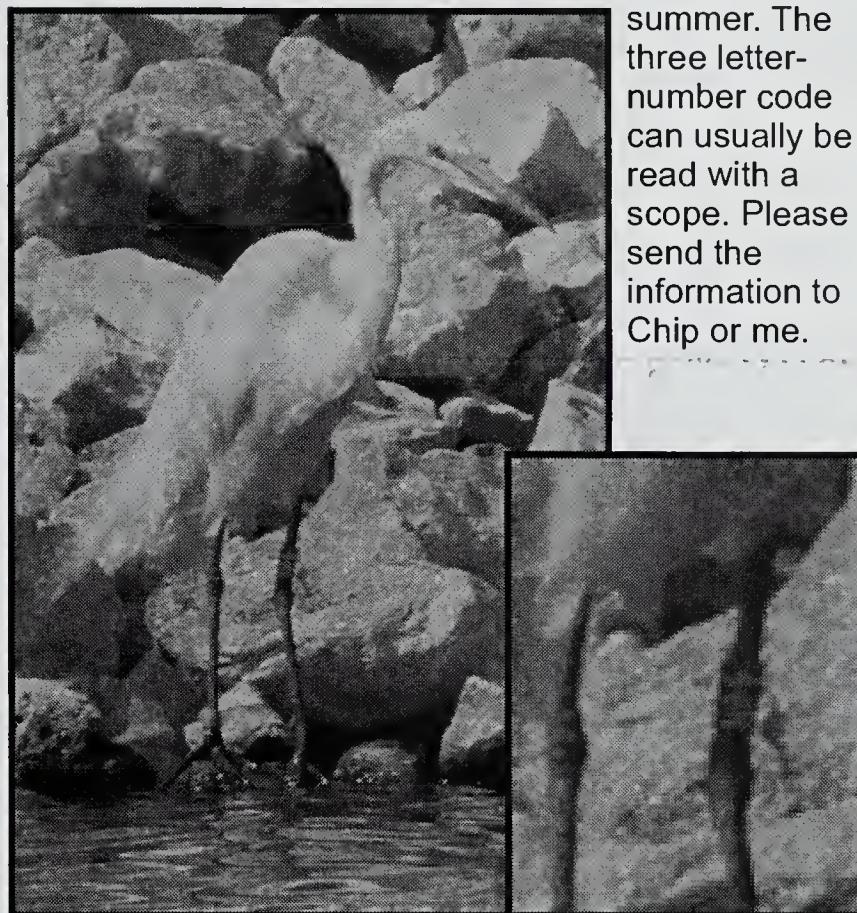
In late June, orange wing-tags were placed on nearly 100 young Great Egrets at Chantry and Nottawasaga colonies near Southhampton and Collingwood in Georgian Bay, Lake Huron (see photographs above). Five Great Blue Herons were also banded. Earlier this year, the two sites had 66 and 126 egret nests, respectively.

Since Georgian Bay Great Egrets in the past have been observed at Tonawanda WMA, Montezuma NWR and other New York locations, Western New York Birders are urged to watch for egrets with these orange wing-tags as they disperse from these colonies and pass through New York. The large orange wing-tags are very visible and there are two numbers and a letter written on each tag to identify individual birds. If you observe one of these birds, please record the characters on the tag, the date and location of your sighting and the number of egrets in the group and your name and send them to Chip Weseloh at

chip.weseloh@ec.gc.ca or williamwatsonsr@aol.com.

Be alert for other banded waders. On July 7th Brendan Kick and I found a Great Egret with a red band above the "knee" on the left leg (see below) and on the evening of August 4th Jim Pawlicki and I observed four banded Great Egrets among 104 Great Egrets visible from Lewiston Road Overlook at Tonawanda Wildlife Management area. Thanks to Jim (and his new telescope) one of the egret's band codes was read. Chip Weseloh reports that it was banded on Motor Island on June 13, 2007. Look for egrets with RED BANDS usually ABOVE THE 'KNEE' ON THE LEFT

LEG this summer. The three letter-number code can usually be read with a scope. Please send the information to Chip or me.



(Above) Banded Great Egret photographed by Brendan Klick at Batavia WWTP on July 7, 2010. Inset shows expansion of the leg band and its placement relative the knee. (Below) Wing-tagged Great Egret photographed by Jim Pawlicki at Batavia WWTP on July 14, 2010.



NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (8th Edition - Revised 2009) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for the species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

* = First record for the year.

F - First record for the migration.

L - Last record for the migration.

(f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of young.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PV - Indicates Previously Documented

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Ave., Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Mute Swan	9	1	Wilson	Watson
"	21	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Joseph
Gadwall	1; 27	19; 4	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Watson
"	25	2	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson
Eurasian Wigeon	7; 11	1; 1	Tonawanda WMA	Wheeler; Fox
American Wigeon	11; 22	36; 1	Tonawanda WMA	Fox; Morgante
Am. Black Duck	21	1	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna et al
Northern Shoveler	21; 22	1; 1	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna et al; Morgante
"	27	2	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Schlacter
Green-winged Teal	22	1	Tonawanda WMA	Morgante
Ring-necked Duck	13; 27	6; 2	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell
Greater Scaup	2	5	Batavia WWTP	Watson
White-winged Scoter	22	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Bufflehead	2; 8	2; 1	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Fox
"	11	11	Sheridan	Neveu
Ruddy Duck	1; 2	67; 52	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Watson
Red-throated Loon	21L	1	Wilson	Morgante et al
Common Loon	1	1	Alden	Mitchell
"	2	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	4	2	Tifft NP	Watson
"	25L	5	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
D.-crested Cormorant	5	124 + 52 n	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
"	25	670	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
American Bittern	2	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Wheeler
"	7	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Lazarczyk et al
"	7	1	Tifft NP	Yoerg; Watson et al
* Least Bittern	2F; 14	1; 1	Tifft NP	Newton
"	22	2	Iroquois NWR	Wheeler
Great Egret	6, 27	90, 57	Motor I.	Watson
* Snowy Egret	<u>6</u>	1	Beaver I. SP	Pawlicki, Wheeler
"	<u>7; 9</u>	1	Wilson	D'Anna; D'Anna, Watson
"	<u>9</u>	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Wheeler
"	<u>11; 12</u>	1	Tonawanda WMA	Mitchell, Fox; Wheeler
Black-cr. Night-Heron	5	140 + 22 n	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
"	6	3	Forest Lawn Cem.	Lazarczyk, Gordon
"	20, 21	1	Wilson	D'Anna et al
Turkey Vulture	2	80	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Landau, Rew
"	5	191	Ripley Hawkwatch	Randell et al
Osprey	2	2	Lakeside Beach SP	Wheeler
"	2, 27	2 ad + n	Tonawanda WMA	Watson, Schlacter
"	7	9	Ripley Hawkwatch	Connare
"	14, 30	2 ad + n	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	30	2 ad + n	Wheatfield	Watson
"	30	1 ad + n	Tonawanda	Watson
Bald Eagle	2; 10	4; 4	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Landau, Rew; Watson
"	4	4 ad+1 imm	Iroquois NWR	Wheeler

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	12	2 ad+1 juv	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	14	1 ad	Delaware Pk, Bflo.	Pawlicki
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	49	Ripley Hawkwatch	Randell et al
Broad-winged Hawk	1; 2; 15	38; 38; 50	Ripley Hawkwatch	Randell et al
Red-tailed Hawk	15	31	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Connare
Merlin	3	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	6	1	Mouth of Silver Creek	Neveu
"	20L	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Newton
Peregrine Falcon	10	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
* <u>King Rail</u>	22	1	Tonawanda WMA	Morgante
Virginia Rail	12; 17	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Sora	1; 2	2; 2	Tifft NP	Wheeler et al; Yoerg
"	2	1	Tonawanda WMA	Mitchell
"	27	1	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
* Black-bellied Plover	19	7	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
"	25	1	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson
"	25	5	Wainfleet (Ont)	Watson
"	28	1	Iroquois NWR	Wheeler
* Semipalmated Plover	9F	1	Somerset	Yoerg
"	14	2	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
Spotted Sandpiper	2; 8	27; 37	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Fox
* Willet	2F	4	Burnaby (Ont)	Farnans; Roy
Solitary Sandpiper	2	4	Yates	Wheeler
"	7; 11	15; 12	Tonawanda WMA	Wheeler; Mitchell
"	15	3	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	21L	1	Somerset	Morgante et al
Greater Yellowlegs	2	26	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	7	20	Tonawanda WMA	Wheeler
Lesser Yellowlegs	7; 11	80; 75	Tonawanda WMA	Wheeler; Mitchell
Upland Sandpiper	30	4	Tillman Road WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
Ruddy Turnstone	19	2	Long Beach CA (Ont)	Yoerg
"	19	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg
"	21	1	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna et al
Semipalm. Sandpiper	19	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg
"	21	2	Hartland	D'Anna
"	21	1	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna et al
* Least Sandpiper	1F	2	Hartland	D'Anna
"	2; 8	7; 9	Yates	Wheeler; D'Anna
"	4, 22; 27	3, 30; 2	Tonawanda WMA	Wheeler; Watson
"	6	67	Yates	Watson
"	22	25	Somerset	Wheeler
* White-r. Sandpiper	<u>1F</u>	1	Hartland	D'Anna, Potter
"	19	2	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
"	21	1	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna et al
"	25	2	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson
Pectoral Sandpiper	1; 6	31; 11	Hartland	D'Anna; Watson
Purple Sandpiper	7L	1	Goat I.	Yoerg
Dunlin	7	3	Tonawanda WMA	Wheeler
"	13	2	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell
"	15	7	Hartland	D'Anna et al
"	19	20	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg
"	25	18	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson
Short-b. Dowitcher	19	1	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg
* Wilson's Phalarope	8F; 9	1	Hartland	D'Anna; Yoerg
Bonaparte's Gull	25	1	Morgan's Pt. (Ont)	Watson
Iceland Gull	12; 18	2; 1	Wilson	D'Anna; Pawlicki et al
"	22L	1	Wilson Harbor	Wheeler
Lesser Black-b. Gull	2	1	Goat I.	D'Anna
"	8	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Yoerg
"	18	1	Olcott	Pawlicki
"	23	2	Wilson	D'Anna
Glaucous Gull	21L	1	Wilson Harbor	D'Anna et al
Caspian Tern	1	72	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	25	54	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
Black Tern	2- 27	11 - 18	Iroquois NWR	Hess, Watson et al
"	27; 30	1; 2	Tonawanda WMA	Watson et al; Yoerg et al
Forster's Tern	22	2	Pt. Breeze	Wheeler
* Yellow-billed Cuckoo	10F	1	Wales	Newton
"	15	1	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna et al
"	15	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	15	1	Bethany	Beattie
* Black-billed Cuckoo	7F	1	Bethany	Mitchell
"	10	2	Sheridan	Neveu
Common Nighthawk	21	1	Clarence	Morgante
"	22, 28	1, 3	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna et al
"	23	1	Alden	Mitchell
* Whip-poor-will	2F	1	Darien Lakes SP	Mitchell
* Ruby-t. Hummingbird	4F	1	Alfred	Peterson
"	8	1	Alden	Mitchell
Red-headed Wdpkr.	1	1	Pt. Gratiot	Neveu
"	2	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Wheeler
"	4, 9	2, 2	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	5-31	1	Clarence	Levy
"	6	1	Yates	Watson
"	17	3	Hamburg	Pawlicki
"	27	1	Emery Park	Newton
"	25 - 31	2 + n	Hamburg	Zebehazy
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	14	1	Delaware Pk, Bflo.	Pawlicki, Watson
* Olive-s. Flycatcher	12F	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	22	1	Tillman Road WMA	Joseph
"	23	1	Tift NP	Wheeler, DiTommaso
"	23	1	Wilson	D'Anna
* Eastern Wood-Pewee	14F	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	14F	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	15	1	Tift NP	Watson
Yellow-b. Flycatcher	22	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Newton
"	23	2	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	27	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Marino
"	30	1	Ward	Brooks
Acadian Flycatcher	17	1	Portland	Mosher et al
"	18	1	Wilson	Pawlicki
"	23 - 31	1	Tift NP	DiTommaso et al
"	29	3	Chestnut Ridge Pk	Morgante
"	31	1	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna et al
"	31	1	Carlton Hill MUA	Dart, Beattie
Alder Flycatcher	21	3	Tift NP	Wheeler
"	21	1	Tonawanda Indian Res.	D'Anna et al
"	21	1	Tonawanda WMA	Morgante
* Willow Flycatcher	12F	1	Sheridan	Neveu
Least Flycatcher	15	12	Amherst SP	Pawlicki
* Gr. Cr. Flycatcher	1F	1	Alexander	Fox
"	2	1	Bethany	Beattie
* Eastern Kingbird	1F	1	Yates	D'Anna, Potter
"	2	1	Pt. Breeze	Wheeler
White-eyed Vireo	15	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	21	1	Sheridan	Neveu
* Yellow-thr. Vireo	1F	1	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Potter
"	1F	1	Alexander	Fox
"	6	1	NE Buffalo	Yoerg
Blue-headed Vireo	21L	1	Wilson-Tusc. SP	Morgante et al
"	31	1	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna et al
* Philadelphia Vireo	6F	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Pawlicki, Wheeler
"	15	1	Wilson	D'Anna et al
"	15	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	23	1	Tift NP	Wheeler

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Red-eyed Vireo	2	1	Tonawanda Indian Res.	Pawlicki
Common Raven	6	2	Beaver Meadow Aud C	Deed
"	8	2	Alfred	Brooks
Tree Swallow	8	125	Batavia WWTP	Fox
N. Rough-w. Swallow	8	185	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Bank Swallow	8	505	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Cliff Swallow	8; 13	9; 2	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Mitchell
"	14	4 + 14 n	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	20	14 + 192 n	Tonawanda I.	Watson
Barn Swallow	8	1000	Grand I.	Lazarczyk
Carolina Wren	1 - 9	1	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	11	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	19	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Winter Wren	9	1	Williamsville	Salembier
	29	2	Ward	Brooks
* Sedge Wren	<u>12F-14</u>	1	Tifft NP	DiTommaso
"	<u>13; 15</u>	1	Tifft NP	Wheeler; Newton et al
"	22; 28	1; 1	Iroquois NWR	Morgante; Wheeler
* Marsh Wren	2F - 7	1	Tifft NP	Yoerg, Neveu et al
"	11	4	Tonawanda WMA	Mitchell
Golden-cr. Kinglet	15	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	27	1	Emery Park	Newton
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	1; 15	20; 1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	19L	2	Forest Lawn Cem.	Gordon
Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	1	14	Tifft NP	Watson
* Veery	5F	2	Alfred	Peterson
"	9, 10	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	9, 10	1, 5	Sheridan	Neveu
Gray-cheeked Thrush	17	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	19 - 27	1	Tifft NP	Watson; Wheeler; Sharon
"	21	1	Allenburg Bog	Chapple
"	24	1	Pt. Breeze	Wheeler
"	25	1	Wilson	Potter
"	25	1	Buffalo	Yoerg, Henderson
Swainson's Thrush	5	2	Tonawanda	Hess
"	10	1	Wales	Newton
"	20	12	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Newton
"	21, 27	8, 1	Tifft NP	Wheeler
"	22	3	Pt. Breeze	Wheeler
Wood Thrush	1	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	1	1	Tifft NP	Newton
"	1	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Yoerg
Gray Catbird	1	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	1	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	1	3	Tifft NP	Watson, Newton
"	1	1	Delaware Park, Bflo.	Yoerg
American Pipit	1	10	Alabama	Mitchell
"	20	15	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Newton
Blue-winged Warbler	1	1	Alfred	Brooks
* Golden-wing. Warbler	5F; 14	1; 1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Yoerg; Pawlicki
"	13	1	Pomfret	Mosher
"	14	1	Tifft NP	Newton
"	14	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter, D'Anna
"	19	1	Pomfret	Watson, Lazarczyk
* Brewster's Warbler	6F	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
* Tennessee Warbler	5F	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Yoerg
"	8, 14	1, 2	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	21	2	Tifft NP	Newton
"	21	1	Sheridan	Neveu
Orange-cr. Warbler	1	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Yoerg
"	8	1	Four Mile Creek SP	Potter, D'Anna
Northern Parula	5	1	Wilson	Potter
"	6	1	Pomfret	Mosher
"	9 - 21	1 - 2	Sheridan	Neveu

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	13	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	22	1	Pt. Breeze	Wheeler
"	25	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
* Chestnut-s. Warbler	3F	1	Amherst SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	4	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
* Magnolia Warbler	1F	1	Tifft NP	Newton et al (BOS)
"	5	1	Wilson	Potter
"	5	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Callaghan
* Cape May Warbler	5F	1	Wilson	Potter
"	5F 7	1; 1	Goat I.	Watson, Weltes; Yoerg
"	5F; 6; 14	1; 1; 3	Forest Lawn Cem.	Yoerg, Pawlicki et al
"	7	1	Goat I.	Yoerg
"	14	1	Pt. Breeze	Wheeler
"	14	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	14	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
* Bl.-thr. Blue Warbler	1F	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	2	1	Tifft NP	Yoerg
Yellow-r. Warbler	10	10	Amherst SP	Salembier
Bl.-thr. Green Warb.	2	1	Tifft NP	Yoerg
Blackburnian Warbler	2	1	Arkwright	Neveu
"	5	1	Wilson	Potter
"	21	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Pine Warbler	4	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	20	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	27	3	Emery Park	Newton
"	29	2	Chestnut Ridge Pk	Morgante
* <u>Kirtland's Warbler</u>	18	1	Wilson	Potter
Prairie Warbler	29	2	Alfred	Brooks
Palm Warbler	15	6	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	15	1	Tifft NP	Watson
* Bay-breasted Warbler	10F	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	13	1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki
* Blackpoll Warbler	10F, 11	1	Sheridan	Neveu
"	14	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	25 - 31	1	Tifft NP	Wheeler
* Cerulean Warbler	1F	1	Allenburg Bog	Chapple
"	2; 15	1; 4	Tonawanda Indian Res.	Pawlicki ; Potter et al
Black-&-White Warb.	1	2	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	1	1	Tifft NP	Newton
* American Redstart	1F	1	Sheridan	Neveu
"	2	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	2	1	Tifft NP	Yoerg
"	2	1	Darien Lakes SP	Mitchell
* Prothonotary Warbler	2F;11;30	1; 2; 2	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki; Mitchell; Yoerg
Ovenbird	2	2	Arkwright	Neveu
Northern Waterthrush	14	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	14	3	Delaware Pk, Bflo.	Pawlicki
"	18	1	Tifft NP	Watson
Louisiana Waterthrush	27	1	Wales	Newton
"	29	2	Chestnut Ridge Pk	Morgante
* Mourning Warbler	14F	1	Pt. Breeze	Wheeler
"	14F	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	D'Anna
"	15	1	Amherst SP	Salembier, Pawlicki
* Common Yellowthroat	2F	1	Tifft NP	Yoerg
"	2F	1	Darien Lakes SP	Mitchell
Hooded Warbler	2	3	Tonawanda Indian Res.	Pawlicki
* Wilson's Warbler	10F	1	Sheridan	Neveu
"	14	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	21; 26	4; 1	Tifft NP	Newton; Wheeler
* Canada Warbler	1F	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Wheeler
"	4	3	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	21; 23	3; 1	Tifft NP	Newton; Watson
* Yellow-br. Chat	8F	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter, D'Anna
* Clay-col. Sparrow	1F	1	Almond	Brooks

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	14	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
Vesper Sparrow	21	1	Newfane	Morgante
"	22	1	Alabama	Morgante
* Grasshopper Sparrow	15F	1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki
"	29	1	Orchard Park	Morgante
"	30	10	Tillman Road WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
Lincoln's Sparrow	7; 14	2; 1	Tifft NP	Newton
"	15	2	Amherst SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
"	23L	1	Wilson	D'Anna
White-thr. Sparrow	30	3	Andover	Brooks
White-cr. Sparrow	1; 3	7; 1	Tifft NP	Watson; Wheeler
"	2	2	Bethany	Beattie
* <u>Summer Tanager</u>	22	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	D'Anna, Wheeler, Newton
* Scarlet Tanager	1F	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
	2	1	Tonawanda Indian Res.	Pawlicki
* Indigo Bunting	9F	2	Chautauqua	Neveu
"	10	1	Hamburg	D'Anna, Potter, Plarr
* Bobolink	1F	4	Alfred	Brooks
"	1F	4	Hartland	D'Anna, Potter
"	1F	5	Bethany	Beattie
Rusty Blackbird	1; 15	1; 1	Tifft NP	Newton; Watson
"	4	1	Sheridan	Neveu
"	7	5	Perrysburg	Neveu
* Orchard Oriole	6F, 8, 17	1, 2, 1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	16	2	Bethany	Beattie
"	21	1	Somerset	D'Anna et al
Baltimore Oriole	1	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	1	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	1	2	Mouth of Silver Creek	Neveu

Species, subspecies and named hybrids previously recorded:	198
New species, subspecies, and named hybrids recorded this month:	060
Total for the year 2010 (to date):	<u>258</u>

Statisticians Note: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please advise us of any errors in the Noteworthy Records.

Report of the 2010 Annual B.O.S. May Bird Count

Date: May 16, 2010

Compiler: Robert L. DeLeon

Weather Synopsis

Mostly sunny and clear with no precipitation.

Sunrise: 5:51 AM EDT Sunset: 8:33 PM EDT

TIME	% LIGHT	TEMP(°F)	PRESSURE (mmHg)	WIND DIR.	WIND SPEED (MPH)
12:00 am	0.0	50.1	30.22	SW	0.7
3:00 am	0.0	49.4	30.23	S	2.0
6:00 am	0.0	48.3	30.23	SSW	0.0
9:00 am	53.4	54.5	30.27	WNW	0.7
12:00 pm	88.1	58.8	30.26	WNW	3.9
3:00 pm	84.4	64.0	30.22	N	6.1
6:00 pm	49.2	64.8	30.19	NNW	3.3
9:00 pm	0.0	59.6	30.19	ENE	0.0
12:00 am	0.0	50.1	30.21	SE	0.0

Lake Erie water temperature: 48 °F

Compilation: The following is a list of species recorded on the count together with the number of individuals tabulated. Bold face names indicate species for which acceptable written verification forms were received. **F** represents first and **L** last dates for the spring migration, * first date for the year. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the section numbers are given in parentheses.

G e e s e - H e r o n s					
Brant	*F	20	(7,8)	Hooded Merganser	18
Canada Goose		3865		Common Merganser	35
Mute Swan		6	(2,3,5)	Red-breasted Merganser	299
Wood Duck		161		Ruddy Duck	47
Gadwall		12	(7,10,13)	Ring-necked Pheasant	20
American Wigeon		17		Ruffed Grouse	19
American Black Duck		3	(21,23)	Wild Turkey	125
Mallard		704		Red-throated Loon	1 (2)
Blue-winged Teal		16		Common Loon	70
Northern Shoveler		7	(10,13)	Pied-billed Grebe	53
Northern Pintail		1	(13)	Horned Grebe	L 1 (19)
Green-winged Teal		5	(4,10,19)	Double-crested Cormorant	3839
Redhead		1	(13)	American Bittern	9
Ring-necked Duck		13	(4,10,13)	Least Bittern	2 (11)
Lesser Scaup		8		Great Blue Heron	384
Long-tailed Duck		669	(2,4,5)	Great Egret	105
Bufflehead		51		Green Heron	33
Common Goldeneye		3	(1,9)	Black-crowned Night-Heron	102
V u l t u r e s - C r a n e s					
Turkey Vulture		859		American Kestrel	74
Osprey		30		Merlin	2 (4,13)
Bald Eagle		44		Peregrine Falcon	7 (9,11)
Northern Harrier		10		unspecified hawks	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk		33		Virginia Rail	3 (3,10)
Cooper's Hawk		24		Sora	5 (5,10)
Red-shouldered Hawk		28		Common Moorhen	13 (5,10,11)
Broad-winged Hawk		73		American Coot	18 (9,10)
Red-tailed Hawk		253		Sandhill Crane	4 (4,5)

Plovers – Terns

Black-bellied Plover	*F	74	(2,8)	Short-billed Dowitcher	*F	6	(10,17,23)
Semipalmated Plover		38		Wilson's Snipe		13	
Killdeer		408		American Woodcock		26	
Spotted Sandpiper		102		Thayer's Gull		1	(2)
Solitary Sandpiper		58		Bonaparte's Gull		459	(6,9,20)
Greater Yellowlegs		7	(4,5,10)	Ring-billed Gull		18010	
Lesser Yellowlegs		41		Herring Gull		2209	
Upland Sandpiper	*F	5	(6,10)	Great Black-backed Gull		72	
Ruddy Turnstone	*F	7	(7)	Iceland Gull		1	(2)
Semipalmated Sandpiper	*F	17	(3,4,8)	Caspian Tern		160	
Least Sandpiper		201		Black Tern		32	(10)
Pectoral Sandpiper		13		Common Tern		244	
Dunlin		122		Forster's Tern	*F	2	(4)

Pigeons - Swallows

Rock Pigeon		963		Alder Flycatcher	*F	16	
Mourning Dove		1225		Willow Flycatcher		91	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo		12		Least Flycatcher		138	
Black-billed Cuckoo		37		unspecified Empidonax		9	
Eastern Screech-Owl		7		Eastern Phoebe		232	
Barred Owl		4		Great-crested Flycatcher		198	
Common Nighthawk	*F	2	(10)	Eastern Kingbird		335	
Whip-poor-will		2	(20,22)	Yellow-throated Vireo		18	
Chimney Swift		230		Blue-headed Vireo		69	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird		130		Warbling Vireo		310	
Belted Kingfisher		75		Philadelphia Vireo		2	(9,10)
Red-headed Woodpecker		31		Red-eyed Vireo		367	
Red-bellied Woodpecker		261		Blue Jay		1908	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		78		American Crow		2173	
Downy Woodpecker		233		Common Raven		33	
Hairy Woodpecker		112		Horned Lark		53	
Northern Flicker		276		Purple Martin		432	
Pileated Woodpecker		34		Tree Swallow		1534	
Olive-sided Flycatcher		1	(11)	Bank Swallow		367	
Eastern Wood Pewee		72		N. Rough-winged Swallow		388	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	*F	1	(20)	Cliff Swallow		89	
Acadian Flycatcher	*F	1	(20)	Barn Swallow		2022	

Tits - Waxwings

Black-capped Chickadee		734		Eastern Bluebird		276	
Tufted Titmouse		164		Veery		103	
Red-breasted Nuthatch		41		Gray-cheeked Thrush	*F	2	(4)
White-breasted Nuthatch		181		Swanison's Thrush		28	
Brown Creeper		15		Hermit Thrush		24	
Carolina Wren		20		Wood Thrush		261	
House Wren		483		American Robin		5579	
Winter Wren		4		Gray Catbird		909	
Sedge Wren		1	(11)	Northern Mockingbird		26	
Marsh Wren		28		Brown Thrasher		101	
Golden-crowned Kinglet		3	(24,25,28)	European Starling		4992	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		27		American Pipit		207	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		47		Cedar Waxwing		104	

Warblers

Blue-winged Warbler		121		Prairie Warbler	*F	15	(18,25,28)
Golden-winged Warbler		3	(3,4,20)	Palm Warbler		83	
Brewster's Warbler (hybrid)		1	(4)	Bay-breasted Warbler		16	
Tennessee Warbler		52		Blackpoll Warbler		48	
Orange-crowned Warbler		2	(1,13)	Cerulean Warbler		9	

Nashville Warbler	60	Black-and-white Warbler	59
Northern Parula	33	American Redstart	336
Yellow Warbler	2237	Prothonotary Warbler	1 (10)
Chestnut-sided Warbler	279	Ovenbird	193
Magnolia Warbler	139	Northern Waterthrush	26
Cape May Warbler	10	Louisiana Waterthrush	2 (13,20)
Black-throated Blue Warbler	94	Mourning Warbler	20
Yellow-rumped Warbler	257	Common Yellowthroat	751
Black-throated Green Warbler	116	Hooded Warbler	139
Blackburnian Warbler	102	Wilson's Warbler	15
Pine Warbler	17	Canada Warbler	18
Tanagers – House Sparrows			
Scarlet Tanager	136	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	399
Eastern Towhee	184	Indigo Bunting	118
Chipping Sparrow	861	Bobolink	995
Clay-colored Sparrow	1 (2)	Red-winged Blackbird	5213
Field Sparrow	195	Eastern Meadowlark	129
Vesper	5	Rusty Blackbird	*L 49
Savannah Sparrow	258	Common Grackle	2464
Grasshopper Sparrow	10	Brown-headed Cowbird	905
Song Sparrow	1430	Orchard Oriole	17
Lincoln's Sparrow	9	Baltimore Oriole	1076
Swamp Sparrow	142	Purple Finch	170
White-throated Sparrow	134	House Finch	275
White-crowned Sparrow	399	Pine Siskin	1 (4)
Dark-eyed Junco	191	American Goldfinch	1589
Northern Cardinal	746	House Sparrow	1715

SUMMARY INFORMATION: Total species observed: 208 (ninth highest)
 Total individual birds observed: 88,533 (below average for the previous decade)
 Number of observers: 248

COMMENTS: The 2010 May count was a very good count featuring many high species counts and few low species counts. It was an unusual combination of a large number of species and a relatively small number of total birds.

HIGHEST EVER COUNTS FOR 1935-2010 COMPARED TO (AVERAGE 1965-2010):
 Fifteen species recorded all-time high counts in 2010: Long-tailed Duck 669 (83), Common Loon 70 (22), Pied-billed Grebe 53 (15), Great Egret 105 (12), Turkey Vulture 859 (228), Osprey 30 (9), Bald Eagle 44 (6), Red-Tailed Hawk 253 (154), Black-bellied Plover 74 (6), Red-bellied Woodpecker 261 (55), Willow Flycatcher 91 (23), Blue-headed Vireo 69 (28), Common Raven 33 (5), Tufted Titmouse 164 (56), Eastern Bluebird 276 (154).

LOW COUNTS FOR 1935-2010 COMPARED TO (AVERAGE 1965-2010):
 Few species were recorded in unusually low numbers. The following six species recorded relatively low numbers compared to their historic averages. American Black Duck 3 (15) is continuing its decline. Vesper Sparrow 5 (35) is also in a long term decline. Pine Siskin 1 (99) exhibits a wide range of values from 0 to 707. Also observed in low numbers: Redhead 1 (5), Common Nighthawk 2 (10) and Philadelphia Vireo 2 (9).

NOTABLE RARE SIGHTINGS: Sedge Wren (verification report by Tom O'Donnell), Clay Colored Sparrow (verification report by John Black)

OBSERVERS (Section compilers are printed in **bold face**):

Section 1: David Cooper, **Lynne Landon**, Terry Yonker

Section 2: **John Black**, Jean Hampson, Bob Highcock, Dan Salisbury, John Stevens, Katherine Stoltz

Section 3: Ed Crohn, Michael Drahms, Jerald Farrell, David Gordon, David Muller, Betsy Potter, Nicholas Randall, **Donald Roberson**, Victoria Rothman, Timothy Simon, Mary Ann Stegmeier, Paul Ziebarth, Virginia Ziebarth

Section 4: Willie D'Anna, Julie Eberhart, Neal Gordon, Jim Pawlicki, Holly Sweeney, **Bill Watson**

Section 5: Don Brasure, Morgan Jones, Jim Rozanski, **Elizabeth Wells**

Section 6: **Jerry Chapple**, Nina Chapple

Section 7: Blayne Farnan, Jean Farnan, **Mike Hamilton**, Margaret Wooster

Section 8: Peter BonEnfant, Doug Happ, Marcie Jacklin, Tim Seburn, **Mike Zebehazy**

Section 9: Lewis Crowell, Dave Friedrich, Mike Galas, Sylvia Galas, Ron Hacker, Sue Hacker, Christopher Hollister, Jerry Lazarczyk, Karen Lec Lewis, Debra Milleville, Charles Mitchell, **Gary Rising**, Larry Zilliox

Section 10: Willie D'Anna, Donna V. DeLeon, **Robert L. DeLeon**, Dean DiTommaso, Chris Newton

Section 11: Connie Adams, Jennifer Becker, Aimee Bella, Marilyn O'Connell, **Thomas O'Donnell**, Daniello Pccoraro, Chuck Rosenburg, Richard Salembier, Peter Yoerg

Section 12: Mark Casell, Paul Fuhrmann, Wayne Gall, Linda Holmes, Mahlon Miller, Nancy Miller, Mike Morgante, Gary Nichter, Mark Nichter, Sarah Piecuch

Section 13: Sarah Balduf, **Doug Beattie**, Sharon Beattie, Carol Britton, Jenny Crane, Elaine Dart, Taler Fonda, Kurt Fox, Julia Garver, Tad Gerace, Charles Graney, Jack Hartwig, Bill Kistner, Jane Mason, Marc Mason, Max Mason, Jim Ochterski, Joseph Salvatore, Judy Spring, Paula Stone, Diane Stringham, Ginny Tiede, John Volpe, Mary Volpe

Section 14: Bob Andrle, Ken Brandes, Joanne Dobbler, Tim Goff, **Fred Harrington**, Glena Leous, Mark Leous, Patty Madigan, Chris Newton, Sandy Radigan, Sue Saunders, Nancy Vigyikan, Paul Vigyikan, Carolyn Willington

Section 15: **William Bogacki**, Ed Ratajczak, Sally Uzunov

Section 16: Patricia Andrle, Robert Anderle, Thomas Connare, Audrey Horbett, **Francis Rew**, George Robbins

Section 17: **Joe Mitchell**

Section 18: Chris Betrus, **Bruce Chilton**, Jim Landau, Karen Landau, Grace Vedder

Section 19: **Russell Allen**, Ron Andrews, Betty Bledsoe, John Cruser, Karen Cruser, James Fegley, Eli Knapp, Dawn Merritt, Larry Mullen, Virginia Norton, Sean Plean, Michael Raybuck, Teresa Rork, Carol Stonemetz, Jean Wilson, **Larry Wilson**

Section 20: Alan Benton, N. Bowser, Chris Budniewski, Ray Budniewski, David Clarke, Sylvia Clarke, **Paul Farver**, Joanne Goetz, Tom Goetz, Joe Gula, Phil Hanlon, Carol Hardenburg, Terry Mosher, David Neveu, Lucille Neveu, Bob Peterson, Jeannie Smith, Ted Taft

Section 21: Margaret Jewett, **Sue Lawton**, Jessie Nelson, Joanne Nelson, **Linda O'Brien**, William Seleen

Section 22: Paul Baglia, Laura Damon, Margaret Jewett, Nancy Karp, Norman Karp, Sue Lawton, **Linda O'Brien**, William Seleen, Bob Sundell, Kirk Vanstrom

Section 23: Margaret Jewett, Ranjit Laha, Ruth Lundin, Steve Maggio, **Linda O'Brien**, Jean Pigman, Bruce E. Robinson, Bruce J. Robinson, Joanne Robinson, William Seleen, Bob Sundell, Jerome Swanson, Kay Swanson

Section 24: **Tim Baird**, Mike DeSha

Section 25: **Tim Baird**, Mike DeSha, Joyce Ermer, Mike Ermer, Jeff Reed, James Van Scoy, Regina Van Scoy

Section 26: **Russell Allen**, Dora Lily, Bob Smalley, Bruce Smalley, Sally Smalley, Denton Willett

Section 27: **Russell Allen**, Helen Link, Evelyn Ransey, Wilma Sanford

Section 28: **Russell Allen**, Dan Babcock, Carol Behn, Don Brink, Lorna Brink, Betsy Brooks, Ken Burdick, Mary Lou Cartledge, Carla Coch, **Diane Converso**, John Gradoni, Geri Hills, Ralph Hills, Pat Hulse, Wayne Kellogg, Sue Lange, Woodie Lange, **Marion McClure**, Kathy McDonald, Mary Ormsby, Ann Pipal, Bob Pipal, Sean Phelan, Evelyn Ramsey, Dan Rase, Roger Smith, Sharon Smith, Maureen Soule, Terah Soule, Megan Stappel, Wilma Taggart, Tim Timbrook, Linda Travers, Gerry Vance, Barbara Ware, Katie Weiman, Mary Lu Wells, **Suzanne Wood**



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July - August Calendar & Announcements

Buffalo-Niagara Regions Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

Aug. 29: Sunday: Canadian shoreline of Lake Erie for shorebirds. Leader: Doug Happ (649-1297). Meet at 7:00 AM at Vermont and Busti near the Peace Bridge. We will car pool from there. Among other places, we will be going to Rock Point Provincial Park, which charges \$13.00 Canadian per car for entry, so bring Canadian money if you have it. Make sure you have a passport or card, Nexus, or enhanced drivers license.

Sept. 8: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Members' Night. Bring along your favorite stories, disk, or slides on a carousel to share with the other members.

Sept. 12: Sunday. Tifft Nature Preserve for warblers and shorebirds. Leader: Chris Newton; Cnewton2@roadrunner.com 716-225-8055. Meet at 8:00 AM in the Tifft N. P. parking lot. This is a half-day trip.

Oct. 9: Sunday. BOS Annual October Count. Thanks to our new compiler for this count, Marcia Jacklin; mjacklin@brocku.ca or 905-871-2577

Oct. 13: Wednesday. BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.

Oct. 22-24: NYSOA Annual Meeting 2010 in Auburn, NY - Montezuma Wetland Complex Region. For details see: New York Birders 39:2:12-13 or http://www.nybirds.org/Articles/AnnMtg2010_flyer.pdf.

Christmas Bird Count dates:

Beaver Meadow Saturday, December 18.

Wilson-Lake Plains Saturday, December 18.

BOS Sunday, December 19.

St. Catharines Sunday, December 19.

Niagara Falls Monday December 27.

Oak Orchard Tuesday, December 28.

Hamburg-East Aurora Sunday January 2.

Pt. Colborne Sunday, January 2.

More details and dates to follow.

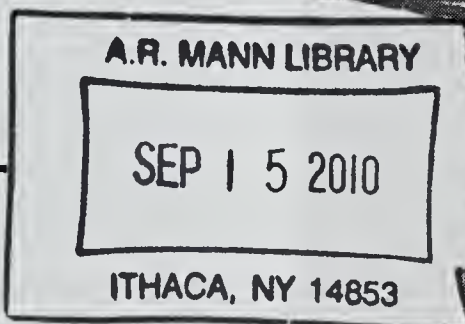
BOS Website is Back! The Buffalo Ornithological Society has an updated website under a new domain. The site is still under construction, but you will already find much of the previous content there, as well as some new features. Keep coming back as we enhance the content. To submit materials for possible inclusion, send to donnadeleon@gmail.com. Our new site URL is <http://www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org>.



Pine Warbler photographed by Chris Newton at Emery Park on May 27, 2010.

The Prothonotary

BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Volume 76, No. 7 July 2010

THE MONTH: June

Mike DeSha

Steve McLaughlin of the National Weather Service characterized the month's weather as "a humid and wet month for Western New York." June's temperatures were warm, but varied little. The average temperature of 67.0° was 1.2° above normal. There were no extremes or records.

Rainfall totaled 8.13 inches, which is 4.31 inches above the normal 3.82 inches. The total for the month made this June the wettest in twenty-three years and the fourth wettest June in the 140 years of Buffalo's weather history. Heavy thunderstorms moved across the region after midnight on the 1st, ending the nine-day dry spell of the last days of May. Thunderstorms occurred every evening during the first week with some violent storms in the immediate Buffalo area near midnight on the 4th. A larger scale complex of storms drenched the area early on the 6th with up to two inches of rain, causing minor flooding and bringing the monthly total up to five inches in the first six days of June. The month quieted down in the next two weeks then turned unsettled again with four distinct downpours from the 22nd – 28th.

The abundant humidity and showers resulted in an unusual amount of cloudiness. The monthly total of 50% was 14% less than normal. Only ten days were mostly sunny (June normally has seventeen) while 10 days were mostly cloudy (the normal being six). Despite the excessive rainfall, there was little or no flooding. The previously dry spring and high evaporation rates during June balanced out the downpours, which were spaced out well enough to allow for good runoff between the events. Lake Erie warmed to 72° by the end of the month, which was five degrees above the normal temperature of 67°.

Noteworthy sightings this June included records for lingering species as well as many interesting records of more uncommon birds. On June 21, well beyond the

loose group of Ruddy Ducks in a pond at the Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant. In his verification, Watson identified this bird as a Greater Scaup based on its rounded head and "longer and more spatulate bill" compared to that of a Lesser Scaup, as well as its whiter auricular feathers and the white patches on the wings. On the same day Watson observed a Least Bittern at Iroquois NWR and on the 24th counted 87 Great Egrets on Motor Island.



Clay-colored Sparrow & Orchard Oriole (♀) photographed by Mike DeSha at Conewango Valley on June 25 & 20, 2010 respectively.

- | | |
|----|---------------------------|
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Verification Date
Guide's June 4th
limiting date for
the species, Bill
Watson found a
Greater Scaup
swimming with a

The Prothonotary is published monthly by the Buffalo Ornithological Society, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, NY 14211. Send address changes to Karen Landau, S-9195 State Road, Colden, NY 14033.

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2008-2010	Drew Campbell Marcie Jacklin Charles Rosenberg
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Merlins are seemingly becoming ever more adapted to urban living in the Southern Tier. Baird provided a verification describing a Merlin seen by many people attending an outdoor session of the Roger Tory Peterson Birding Festival on June 12th on the campus of Jamestown Community College in Jamestown, Chautauqua County. I will let Tim describe the encounter: "I was on campus with a large group (30+) people participating in a walk led by Ted Floyd of the American Birding Association. We were watching a Red-shouldered Hawk flying toward us. When the R.-sh. Hawk was about 100 yards from us a small raptor seemed to come out of

nowhere, chased and made a pass at the larger hawk. It was apparent from the shape of the smaller hawk that it was a falcon with long, pointed wings and a long tail. The bird was dark in silhouette against the cloudy sky. The falcon's flight was very direct. I did not hear any sound from the falcon. Its size could be reasonably determined by direct comparison with the R.-sh. Hawk and looked to be at least half the size of the larger bird. Following a pass at the hawk the falcon flew off toward the residential neighborhood." Jeff Reed observed a family group of Merlins in Olean during the month, noting sightings in particular on the 19th and 22nd. His verification included some marvelous photographs.

In another confirmation of the eastward movement of Sandhill Cranes, Willie D'Anna and Betsy Potter, who were co-leading Roger Tory Peterson Festival field trips to Watts Flats WMA, saw on the first day, June 11th, a Sandhill Crane flying overhead. D'Anna verified the sighting: "The initial thought was Great Blue Heron, but the neck of the bird was outstretched and the plumage was sandy-brown and not blue-gray and white. The bird had long legs trailing behind its long broad wings, a long constantly outstretched neck, and a long stout bill. On the 12th we heard a few "gar-roo" calls over a five second span."

Populations of Upland Sandpipers continue to



Merlin photographed by Jeff Reed at Olean on June 19, 2010.

decline along with many other grassland species. Watson found one on the 14th at Tillman Road WMA. Watson documented a late Semipalmated Sandpiper that he found on the 21st.

Little Gulls continue to show up in June as they have in the years since 2006. Mark Schlacter and Watson saw two Little Gulls on the 14th at Fort Niagara State Park. On June 1, Wheeler saw a fly-by Laughing Gull at Batavia WWTP. He separated it from a possible Franklin's Gull by "its blood-red bill, dark legs and all-black wingtips." According to the Buffalo Ornithological Society publication *Seasonal Checklist of the Birds*, Laughing Gull is irregular, but has been seen every month of the year.

On June 12th, while leading a group of Roger Tory Peterson Birding Festival attendees on a trip to Allegany State Park, Tim Baird spotted and got the group onto a very late Olive-sided Flycatcher "sitting at the top of a dead tree with its back to us. The first characteristic to catch my eye was the two white patches of fluffy feathers protruding near the rump from under the wings. The bird regularly left its perch and pursued flying insects which it caught then returned to the same tree and ate the prey. This habit of repeatedly

(continued on page 70)

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (8th Edition - Revised 2009) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for the species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

* = First record for the year.

F - First record for the migration.

L - Last record for the migration.

(f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of young.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PV - Indicates Previously Documented

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Ave., Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com

<u>Species</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Mute Swan	12	2	Pt. Breeze	Mitchell
Gadwall	1	4	Batavia WWTP	Wheeler
"	14	2	Tonawanda WMA	Hess
"	21	5	Batavia WWTP	Watson
American Wigeon	1	2	Batavia WWTP	Wheeler
"	13	1	Black Rock Canal, Bflo	Morgante
"	21	2	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Am. Black Duck	1; 21	1; 1	Batavia WWTP	Wheeler; Watson
Blue-winged Teal	21	6	Tonawanda WMA	Watson, Schlacter
Northern Shoveler	1	1	Batavia WWTP	Wheeler, Mitchell
Green-winged Teal	21	14	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Ring-necked Duck	1	2	Batavia WWTP	Wheeler
Greater Scaup	1; <u>21L</u>	1	Batavia WWTP	Wheeler; Watson
Lesser Scaup	23	1	Niagara Falls	Watson
Common Goldeneye	27	1	Sheridan	Wheeler
Common Merganser	1	2	Batavia WWTP	Wheeler
"	4	3	Navy I. (Ont)	Watson, Schlacter
"	24	1	West Seneca	Morgante
Ruddy Duck	1; 21	9; 16	Batavia WWTP	Wheeler; Watson
Common Loon	6	1	South Dayton	Mitchell
Pied-billed Grebe	11	2 + 6 yg	Tifft NP	Watson
D.-crested Cormorant	4	303 + 27 yg	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
American Bittern	9; 12	1; 1	Iroquois NWR	Morgante; Frisch
Least Bittern	21	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Great Egret	1 - 30	1 - 2	Tonawanda	Hess
"	10, 24	55, 87	Motor I.	Watson
"	27	2	Iroquois NWR	Ghadban
Black-cr. Night-Heron	16	32 + 14 n	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
Osprey	4	2 ad + n	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson, Schlacter
"	4, 23	2 ad + n	Wheatfield	Watson, Schlacter
"	12	3 ad + n	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Schlacter
"	14	1 + n	Tonawanda WMA	Hess
"	20	2	Oak Orchard WMA	Dart, Beattie
"	30	2 + 2yg	Tonawanda	Watson
Bald Eagle	12, 21	1 ad	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	21	1 imm	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	22	1 imm	Allegany SP	Yoerg, Henderson
Northern Harrier	18	1	Alfred	Brooks
Red-shouldered Hawk	11	1	Andover	Brooks
"	27	1	Orchard Park	Morgante
Broad-winged Hawk	20L	1 imm	Elma	Morgante
Merlin	<u>12</u>	1	Jamestown	Baird et al
"	<u>19, 22</u>	2	Olean	Reed
Peregrine Falcon	8	2 ad + 1 yg	Buffalo	Salembier
Virginia Rail	20	1	Tonawanda WMA	S&T O'Donnell
American Coot	12	2	Iroquois NWR	Frisch

<u>Species</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Sandhill Crane	<u>11, 12</u>	1	Watts Flats WMA	D'Anna et al
Semipalm. Plover	1	1	Tonawanda WMA	Wheeler
"	6L	2	Hartland	D'Anna
Upland Sandpiper	14	1	Tillman Road WMA	Watson, Schlacter
Ruddy Turnstone	1	1	Batavia WWTP	Wheeler
Semipalm. Sandpiper	1	3	Batavia WWTP	Wheeler
"	3	1	Newstead	Mitchell
"	6; <u>21L</u>	2; 1	Tonawanda WMA	Wheeler; Watson
Least Sandpiper	3L	7	Newstead	Mitchell
Dunlin	1	1	Tonawanda WMA	Wheeler
Bonaparte's Gull	16	28	Fort Niagara SP	Watson
Little Gull	<u>16</u>	2	Fort Niagara SP	Watson
* <u>Laughing Gull</u>	1	1	Batavia WWTP	Wheeler
Caspian Tern	11	2	Times Beach NP	Watson
"	12	6	Pt. Breeze	Mitchell
Black Tern	12	5	Tonawanda WMA	Watson, Schlacter
"	14; 27	17; 21	Iroquois NWR	Hess; Ghadban
Common Tern	4	49	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	11	155	Buffalo Harbor	Watson
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	12	1	Carroll	Morgante
"	12, 14	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	14	2	Allegany SP	Baird
Black-billed Cuckoo	15, 20	1, 1	Lancaster	Morgante
Common Nighthawk	1 - 30	1 - 2	Buffalo	Yoerg
"	5	1	Tonawanda	Hess
"	19	1	Alfred	Brooks
Red-headed Wdpkr.	1; 20	2; 1	Oak Orchard WMA	Wheeler; Dart, Beattie
"	13	1	Squaw I., Bflo	Morgante
Olive-s. Flycatcher	<u>12L</u>	1	Allegany SP	Baird et al
Acadian Flycatcher	1	1	Tift NP	DiTommaso, Wheeler
"	6, 11, 12	2	Allegany SP	Baird
Yellow-thr. Vireo	5, 14	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	20	1	Elma	Morgante
"	29	1	Royalton	Salembier
Common Raven	10	2	Andover	Brooks
"	22	4+	Allegany SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	30	2	Alfred	Brooks
Purple Martin	14	8	Bethany	Beattie
"	20	25	Oakfield	Beattie
"	26	1	Yorkshire	Wheeler
Cliff Swallow	4	80 + 148n	Tonawanda I.	Watson
"	4	8 + 17 n	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	6	1	Hartland	D'Anna
"	16	14 + 19n	Fort Niagara SP	Watson
Carolina Wren	11	2	Times Beach NP	Watson
"	23	1	Orchard Park	Morgante
"	29, 30	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Winter Wren	5, 11, 12	1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	8	1	Pike	Watson, Schlacter
"	21, 30	1, 1	Ward	Brooks
Sedge Wren	8, 21	1, 2	Lancaster	Rosenburg, Adams
"	20	2	Iroquois NWR	S&T O'Donnell
Swainson's Thrush	5, 11, 12	1	Allegany SP	Baird
Northern Mockingbird	11, 14	1, 1	Tonawanda	Watson
"	20	1	Eden	Morgante
"	30	1	Aurora	Salembier
Golden-wing. Warbler	5, 8, 11	1	Pomfret	Mosher
Nashville Warbler	11	1	Andover	Brooks
Northern Parula	5 - 12; 22	3+; 8	Allegany SP	Baird; Yoerg, Henderson
Magnolia Warbler	13L	1	Buffalo	Yoerg
Bl.-thr. Blue Warbler	14L	1	Newstead	Hess
* <u>Yellow-thr. Warbler</u>	12	1	Allegany SP	Baird et al
Pine Warbler	12; 22	1; 2	Allegany SP	Baird; Yoerg, Henderson

<u>Species</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	13,17,30	1	Wilson	Potter
"	20	1	Aurora	Morgante
"	20	1	Elma	Morgante
Prairie Warbler	1	2	Alfred	Brooks
"	6 - 18	1 - 2	Andover	Brooks
"	8	4	Eagle	Watson, Schlacter
"	11, 12	1, 1	Carroll	Morgante
"	22	2	Allegany SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	26	12	Yorkshire	Wheeler
Blackpoll Warbler	2, 3	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	3L	1	Pomfret	Mosher
Cerulean Warbler	6	2	Allegany SP	Baird
"	14; 20	1; 1	Tonawanda WMA	Hess; S&T O'Donnell
"	29	1	Royalton	Salembier
Black-&-White Warb.	22	1	Allegany SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	26	1	Ward	Brooks
Prothonotary Warbler	12	3	Tonawanda WMA	Watson, Schlacter et al
Northern Waterthrush	12	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Schlacter
"	14	2	Tonawanda WMA	Hess
Louisiana Waterthrush	11, 12	1	Carroll	Morgante
"	22, 27	2, 1	Allegany SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	30	1	Aurora	Salembier
Clay-col. Sparrow	8	1 - 2	<u>Eagle</u>	Watson et al
"	25	2	Conewango	Morton, DeSha
"	26	1	Yorkshire	Wheeler
Grasshopper Sparrow	3	1	Pomfret	Mosher
"	3	1	Newstead	Mitchell
"	5; 12	1; 2	Lewiston	D'Anna; Frisch
"	14	3 - 5	Tillman Road WMA	Schlacter, Watson
White-thr. Sparrow	7, 21	2, 1	Ward	Brooks
"	20, 21	3, 10	Alfred	Brooks
"	27	3	Lyndon	DeSha
Indigo Bunting	11	1	Tifft NP	Watson
Orchard Oriole	10	2	Allegany SP	Baird
"	16	1	Conewango	Morton, DeSha
"	20	2	Alfred	Peterson
"	30	3	Wilson	D'Anna
Purple Finch	1 - 30	1 - 3	Williamsville	Salembier
"	5 - 29	4	Bethany	Beattie

Species, subspecies and named hybrids previously recorded:	258
New species, subspecies, and named hybrids recorded this month:	002
Total for the year 2010 (to date):	<u>260</u>

Statisticians Note: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please advise us of any errors in the Noteworthy Records.



www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org

September - October Calendar & Announcements

Buffalo-Niagara Regions Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

Sept. 8: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Members' Night. Bring along your favorite stories, disk, or slides on a carousel to share with the other members.

Sept. 12: Sunday. Tifft Nature Preserve for warblers and shorebirds. Leader: Chris Newton; Cnewton2@roadrunner.com 716-225-8055. Meet at 8:00 AM in the Tifft N. P. parking lot. This is a half-day trip.

Oct. 10: Sunday. BOS Annual October Count. Thanks to our new compiler for this count, Marcia Jacklin; mjacklin@brocku.ca or 905-871-2577

Oct. 13: Wednesday. BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.

Oct. 22-24: NYSOA Annual Meeting 2010 in Auburn, NY - Montezuma Wetland Complex Region. For details see: New York Birders 39:2:12-13 or http://www.nybirds.org/Articles/AnnMtg2010_flyer.pdf.

Oct. 30: Saturday not Sunday. Lake Ontario Plain Field Trip for fall migrants. Leader: Willie D'Anna (751-3637 or dannapotter@roadrunner.com). Meet at 8 a.m. at Tops Market in Wright's Corners. This is on the east side of Route 78 at Route 104.

Nov. 10: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Jean Iron, former president of the Ontario Field Ornithologists, will discuss Birds of James Bay.

(The Month, continued from page 66)

using the same perch is one I have noticed before. When it perched facing the observers, its dark flanks (vest) clearly stood out."

The O'Donnells found two Sedge Wrens at Iroquois NWR on the 20th. Rosenberg and Adams found one on the 8th and two on the 20th at a location in Lancaster.

On the 12th, Tim Baird and others on the previously-

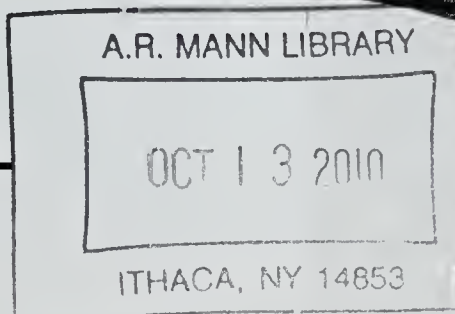
mentioned field trip with participants at the Roger Tory Peterson Birding Festival found a Yellow-throated Warbler at Red House Lake in Allegany State Park. This is the seventh consecutive year that a Yellow-throated Warbler has been found in this area since breeding individuals were discovered in the last years of the field work on the Second Breeding Bird Atlas.

Clay-colored Sparrows were observed in several locations this month. On June 8th, Watson and others found one and possibly two in the Town of Eagle. Wheeler found one in a traditional Cattaraugus County location at Keller Road in the Town of Yorkshire on the 26th. Pat Morton, who lives on the Conewango Creek, has taken it upon himself to survey some of the abandoned farmlands in the Conewango Valley that have been placed under Conservation Easements with the DEC. On June 25th I accompanied him to the location in the Town of Conewango where previously in the month he had spotted what he believed to be Clay-colored Sparrows. We were able to locate at least two, and given all of the singing we heard, there were likely several more. Terry Mosher found a Grasshopper Sparrow in Pomfret on the 3rd of June. No Vesper Sparrows or Henslow's sparrows were reported.

Orchard Orioles were widely reported. Baird found two in Allegany State Park on the 10th, Peterson found two in Alfred on the 20th, and D'Anna saw three in Wilson on the 30th. Pat Morton, in checking another of the abandoned farmlands mentioned above, came across an immature male that was courting a female. On the 20th I joined him and we found this bird carrying food to a nest that Pat also had previously located. Stephen Eaton, in his book *Birds of Cattaraugus County*, published in 1981, lists Orchard Oriole as a possible breeder. There were two confirmed breeding records in Cattaraugus County documented in the 1985 Atlas and no confirmed nestings in the county during the Atlas 2000 effort. This record appears to be only the third confirmed nesting record of Orchard Oriole in Cattaraugus County.

The Prothonotary

BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Volume 76, No. 8 August 2010

THE MONTH: July *Elizabeth Wells*

Steve McLaughlin summarized July as "...a true summer month..." where "Western New Yorkers were treated to an extended periods of high heat and humidity..." Due to a massive high-pressure system, the first few days of July brought cool, sunny, dry weather. On July 2nd, temperatures dropped to the month's low of 50 °F. The high stalled at the coast, and WNY warmed up significantly, with average highs and lows 2.6 degrees above normal for the month. This was the 16th warmest July in 139 years. The average temperature was 73.5 °F, with the high temperature on July 8th, at 92, our warmest day since September 2007. July 5 – 8 had many suburban areas in the 90s, daily. Tying us at 3rd for longest recorded stretch, we had twenty-one consecutive days, from the 4th through the 24th, that were 80 or above.

Rainfall was only 0.03 inches above normal with 3.17 recorded at the airport, but totals were variable and localized. Much of that fell in three days, thunderstorms on the 9th brought 0.64", and over 2" of rain fell in thunderstorms on the 23rd and 24th. Tornadoes were recorded late on the 24th in the southern tier, and an evening thunderstorm on the 28th brought wind damage to North Tonawanda.

Sunshine was normal for July, totaling 69 %. Of sixteen mostly sunny days; ten were in the first 11 days. Three days were mostly cloudy, with a mix of sun and cloud for the rest of the month. Lake Erie was 3 °F above normal, at 76 by the end of the month.

On July 1st, mid-day, David Wheeler spotted two Greater Yellowlegs at the Batavia Waste Water

Treatment Plant. They were seen feeding among some dabbling ducks. He noted the "...bill length exceeded twice head width and showed very slight upturn." This record was one day prior to the current

Verification Date Guide date ranges for this species.

A Greater Scaup continued to be seen at the Batavia WWTP on several occasions. Wheeler saw one



(Upper) Clay-colored Sparrow & (Lower) Prairie Warbler photographed by Chris Newton at Hilliker Rd in the town of Yorkshire on July 10, 2010.

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on July 1st. Identified by the "... slight peak over eye, no slight tuft or peak near rear of head that would suggest Lesser Scaup." The same Greater Scaup was seen on July 7th at Batavia WWTP by Brendan Klick and William Watson. Again feeding with Ruddy Ducks, Watson believes this is the same bird as seen in June. A female, both noted the distinct white ear patches, which tend to be more obvious in the Greater Scaup than the Lesser Scaup. Three Greater Scaup were seen last July 13 and 14 on the Niagara River by Pawlicki, Watson. Prior to that sighting, no Greater Scaup were seen in July since 1999.

This is the third July in recent years that

both American Avocets and Willets have been spotted along the southern shore of Lake Erie. On July 16th, David Wheeler found two Willets with nine Avocets at the mouth of Cattaraugus Creek. He also spotted two Willets on July 19th, again at the mouth of the creek. His descriptions are best – of the Avocets – "Large black and white shorebirds with slim upturned bills and pink plumage highlights. Mostly stood around in water deeper than the Willets wanted to be in, but occasionally walked on shore." And of the Willets: "Large 'western' Willets with long bluish-gray legs and stocky bill. First set of Willets stood mostly behind the Avocets, preferring shallower water. When the Avocets would move, the Willets would stand for a minute and then reposition behind them. Second set of Willets may be different birds, but only the Willets know." He mentions there were strong southwest winds of 20 – 25 knots on both dates. "Western" Willets breed inland in freshwater prairie marshes.

At a feeder on their property in Wilson, on July 7, Willie D'Anna gets home from work to find a bird with a "...conical bill and somewhat yellowish plumage." Ruling out an aberrant goldfinch, he calls for Betsy Potter and she takes some photographs before the bird flies off. Finding nothing in the North American field guides they turn to *Birds of Europe*, and Betsy quickly identifies it as a European Greenfinch, *Carduelis*

chloris. D'anna describes the bird: "This was a chunky finch, much larger than a Goldfinch and slightly larger than a couple of female House Finches (direct comparison). It had a heavy conical bill and a notched tail. Overall, it was greenish, with some yellow tones on the ventral body. The lores were grayish. The wings and tail were a bluish gray with a prominent yellow patch on the base of the outer primaries and a yellow patch at the base of the outer tail feathers. The bird was unstreaked above and essentially unstreaked below although the mixture of olive/greenish and yellowish tones at times gave the appearance of streaks. The legs and feet were pinkish. The maxilla was grayish and the lower mandible was pinkish. The difference in color between the two mandibles was rather muted. The irides were dark."

The bird was not banded and they believe this bird is most likely an escapee. D'Anna adds that infrequent sightings of European finches around the Great Lakes may be due to an intentional release by a Chicago dealer about 10 years ago. See photographs of this bird and the Statisticians' Note on Page 76.

More Merlins were seen and photographed in the Southern tier this month. Four were seen in Hamburg on the 15th, by Happ, Zebehazy et al. Reed then had four on July 16, and two more on the 31st, all in Olean.

Thank you to Dave Suggs, Mike Morgante and Steve McLaughlin at the National Weather Service: <http://www.weather.gov/climate/>

DiTommaso, D., Suggs, D., et al, B.O.S. Noteworthy Records Database. 1964-Present.



Merlin photographed in the village of Hamburg by Doug Happ on July 15, 2010. The family of four birds was originally discovered by Mike Zebehazy.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (8th Edition - Revised 2009) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for the species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

* = First record for the year.

F - First record for the migration.

L - Last record for the migration.

(f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of young.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PV - Indicates Previously Documented

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Ave., Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com

<u>Species</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Mute Swan	1	2	Wilson Harbor	Salembier
"	16	2	Barcelona Harbor.	Lenz
Wood Duck	19	126	Oak Orchard WMA	Wasilco
Gadwall	8	2	Niagara Falls	Watson
"	18	2	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
American Wigeon	9; 24	6; 1	Batavia WWTP	Purcell; Wheeler
"	25	1	Sweets Corners (Ont)	D'Anna, Potter
Am. Black Duck	10	2	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Blue-winged Teal	25F	2	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson, Happ (BOS)
Northern Shoveler	10	3	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Green-winged Teal	7; 10	3; 2	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Klick; Fox
Redhead	14, 24	1, 1	Batavia WWTP	Wheeler
"	29	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Wheeler
Greater Scaup	<u>1; 7</u>	1	Batavia WWTP	Wheeler; Klick, Watson
Long-tailed Duck	15F	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Wheeler
"	31	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
Common Merganser	7; 22	46; 77	Fort Erie (Ont)	Klick, Watson; Wheeler
"	8, 31	5, 4	Niagara Falls	Watson
"	22	4	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
Red-br. Merganser	29	2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Wheeler
"	31	2	Wilson	D'Anna
"	31	2	Niagara Falls	Watson, Pawlicki
Ruddy Duck	7; 10	32; 15	Batavia WWTP	Klick et al; Fox
Common Loon	16	2	Mayville	Lenz
"	31	2	Niagara Falls	Pawlicki, Watson
D.-crested Cormorant	8, 22	600, 750	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
"	11	417,43yg,196n	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	22	198,38yg,84n	Reef Lighthouse	Watson
American Bittern	12; 29	1; 1	Iroquois NWR	Watson; Salembier
"	26	2	Tonawanda WMA	Foti
"	27	1	Warsaw	Bisson
Least Bittern	1	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Wheeler
Great Egret	1	6	Oak Orchard WMA	Wheeler
"	1; 7	3; 1	Batavia WWTP	Wheeler; Klick, Watson
"	6	87	Motor I.	Watson
"	11 - 31	1 - 2	Tonawanda	Hess
"	18	110	Tonawanda WMA	Wheeler
"	19	30	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg, Henderson
"	25	1	Sweets Corners (Ont)	D'Anna, Potter
Blk.-cr. Night Heron	7	1	Batavia WWTP	Klick, Watson
"	30	3	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Osprey	3 - 10	4 n + young	Allegany SP	Hess
"	8	2 ad + n	Wheatfield	Watson
"	11	2 +2 yg+ n	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	12	4 ad + 2 n	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	19	2 + n	Tonawanda	Watson

<u>Species</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Bald Eagle	4	1	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
"	7, 12, 30	1 ad	Tonawanda WMA	Watson, Klick
"	18	2 ad	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	20, 31	1 juv, 2 juv	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	27	1 ad	Hanover	Neveu
Northern Harrier	16, 26	1	Andover	Brooks
"	22	1	Alfred	Brooks
Sharp-shinned Hawk	29	5	Gouinlock's Pond	Beattie
Merlin	15	4	Hamburg	Happ, Zebehazy et al
	16, 31	4, 2	Olean	Reed
Peregrine Falcon	2	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Humann
"	12, 28	1, 1	Tonawanda	Watson
Sora	10	1	North Harmony	Berry
Common Moorhen	7	13	Batavia WWTP	Klick
American Coot	26	2	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	28	2	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
Black-bellied Plover	9F	1	Port Colborne (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	22; 27	1; 1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Wheeler; Humann
"	29	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Wheeler
Semipalmated Plover	19F	1	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg
"	22	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
American Avocet	16	9	Mouth of Catt. Creek	Wheeler
Spotted Sandpiper	10	57	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Solitary Sandpiper	18F	1	North Harmony	Berry
"	24; 26	12; 7	Elba	Beattie; Watson, Schlacter
Greater Yellowlegs	1F	2	Batavia WWTP	Wheeler
"	8; 15	2; 2	Dunnville (Ont)	Klick, Watson; Wheeler
"	14	2	Sheridan	Neveu
Willet	16, 19	2	Mouth of Catt. Creek	Wheeler
Lesser Yellowlegs	7F	2	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Klick
"	7F	1	Tonawanda WMA	Watson, Klick
"	24	15	Elba	Beattie
* Whimbrel	15F	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Wheeler
"	20	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Humann
Ruddy Turnstone	25F; 29	1; 1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	D'Anna, Potter; Wheeler
* Sanderling	15F	4	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Wheeler
Semipalm. Sandpiper	9F	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
"	15	10	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Wheeler
"	22	8	Wainfleet (Ont)	Watson
"	22	9	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
Least Sandpiper	1F	3	Batavia WWTP	Wheeler
"	1F	9	Tonawanda WMA	Wheeler
"	8	19	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson
"	19	50	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg, Henderson
White-r. Sandpiper	29F	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Wheeler
Pectoral Sandpiper	10F	1	North Harmony	Berry
"	14	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
* Stilt Sandpiper	14F	1	Batavia WWTP	Wheeler
"	15	2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Wheeler
"	19	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Wasilco
"	29	5	Dunnville (Ont)	Wheeler
Short-b. Dowitcher	8F	10	Dunnville (Ont)	Klick, Watson
"	10	11	North Harmony	Berry
"	15, 29	1, 1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Wheeler
Wilson's Snipe	19	2	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg, Henderson
American Woodcock	9	2	Port Colborne (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Bonaparte's Gull	8	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Klick
"	25	7 imm	Sweets Corners (Ont)	D'Anna, Potter
"	30	17 ad+1 juv	Wilson	D'Anna
"	31	22	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki, Watson
"	31	32	Niagara Falls	Pawlicki, Watson
Great Black-b. Gull	8	7	Niagara Falls	Watson
Caspian Tern	4	1	North Harmony	Berry

<u>Species</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Black Tern	7; 8	16; 9	Iroquois NWR	Klick, Watson; Purcell
Common Tern	8	67	Niagara Falls	Watson
"	31	191	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	6	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	15; 22	1; 1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Wheeler; Schlacter et al
Black-billed Cuckoo	2	1	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
Common Nighthawk	1 - 31	1	N. Buffalo	Yoerg, Henderson
Whip-poor-will	9	10	Port Colborne (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Red-headed Wdpkr.	1 - 16	1	Clarence Center	Sowinski
"	1 - 24	4 ad + 2 yg	Hamburg	M&W Zebehazy
"	8; 20	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Klick, Watson; Humann
"	10	1	Golden Hill SP	Kauffman
"	20	2 ad + 2 yg	Pt. Gratiot	Watson, Schlacter
"	28	2	Como Lake Park	Salembier
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	14	1	Como Lake Park	Mitchell
Acadian Flycatcher	3 - 10	5	Allegany SP	Hess
"	5	1	Carroll	Berry
"	12	1	Hanover	Neveu
"	12,22,27	2, 3, 1	Villanova	Neveu
Yellow-thr. Vireo	5; 29	2; 2	Attica	Gerace, Beattie; Beattie
Common Raven	11	3	Ward	Brooks
"	6	1	Yorkshire	Yoerg, Henderson
Horned Lark	25	14	Wainfleet (Ont)	Watson
Purple Martin	4	1	North Harmony	Berry
"	5	30	Bethany	Gerace, Beattie
"	20	26	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Tree Swallow	4	180	Beaver I. SP	Lazarczyk
Bank Swallow	31	1000	Niagara Falls	Watson, Pawlicki
Cliff Swallow	2	50 + 9 n	Tonawanda I.	Watson
"	2	1	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
"	19	50 + 34 n	North Tonawanda	Watson
"	28	1 + 15 n	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	31	2 ad + 14 n	Fort Niagara	Watson
Carolina Wren	1 - 30	1	Eden	Andrle
"	1 - 31	1 - 2	Williamsville	Salembier
"	20	3	Pt. Gratiot	Watson, Schlacter
Winter Wren	3 - 10	6	Allegany SP	Hess
"	11,15, 27	1 - 2	Ward	Brooks
"	27	3	Erie County Forest	Foti
Sedge Wren	27	1	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki
Marsh Wren	19	25	Oak Orchard WMA	Wasilco
Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	11	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
Swainson's Thrush	7	1	Allegany SP	Hess
Northern Mockingbird	1	1	Somerset	Salembier
"	2, 19, 23	1, 2, 2	Tonawanda	Watson
"	9	1	Batavia WWTP	Purcell
"	10, 20	3, 2	Bethany	Beattie
"	25	1	Warsaw	Bisson
Northern Parula	3 - 10	2	Allegany SP	Hess
Magnolia Warbler	12	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Bl.-thr. Blue Warbler	20	1	Ward	Brooks
Pine Warbler	9	1	Allegany SP	Hess
"	10	1	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
Prairie Warbler	1	2	Andover	Brooks
"	6	8	Yorkshire	Yoerg, Henderson
"	10	1	North Harmony	Berry
"	12	1	Alfred	Brooks
Ovenbird	7	1	Batavia WWTP	Klick, Watson
Northern Waterthrush	24	1	Aurora	Morgante
La. Waterthrush	3 - 10	3	Allegany SP	Hess
Canada Warbler	2, 11, 18	1	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
"	18	1	Ward	Brooks

<u>Species</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Clay-col. Sparrow	6; 10	1 – 3; 1	Yorkshire	Yoerg et al; Newton
Vesper Sparrow	6	1	Yorkshire	Yoerg, Henderson
"	9	1	Carlton Hill WMA	Purcell
Grasshopper Sparrow	6	2	Bethany	Beattie
"	9	3	Carlton Hill WMA	Purcell
"	27	1	Warsaw	Bisson
White-thr. Sparrow	13	2	Warsaw	Bisson
"	15	5	Alfred	Brooks
Orchard Oriole	1 - 29	3 – 1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	5, 8, 11	2 – 3	Bethany	Beattie et al
"	12	2	Silver Creek	Neveu

Species, subspecies and named hybrids previously recorded:	260
New species, subspecies, and named hybrids recorded this month:	003
Total for the year 2010 (to date):	<u>263</u>

Statisticians' Note: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please advise us of any errors in the Noteworthy Records.

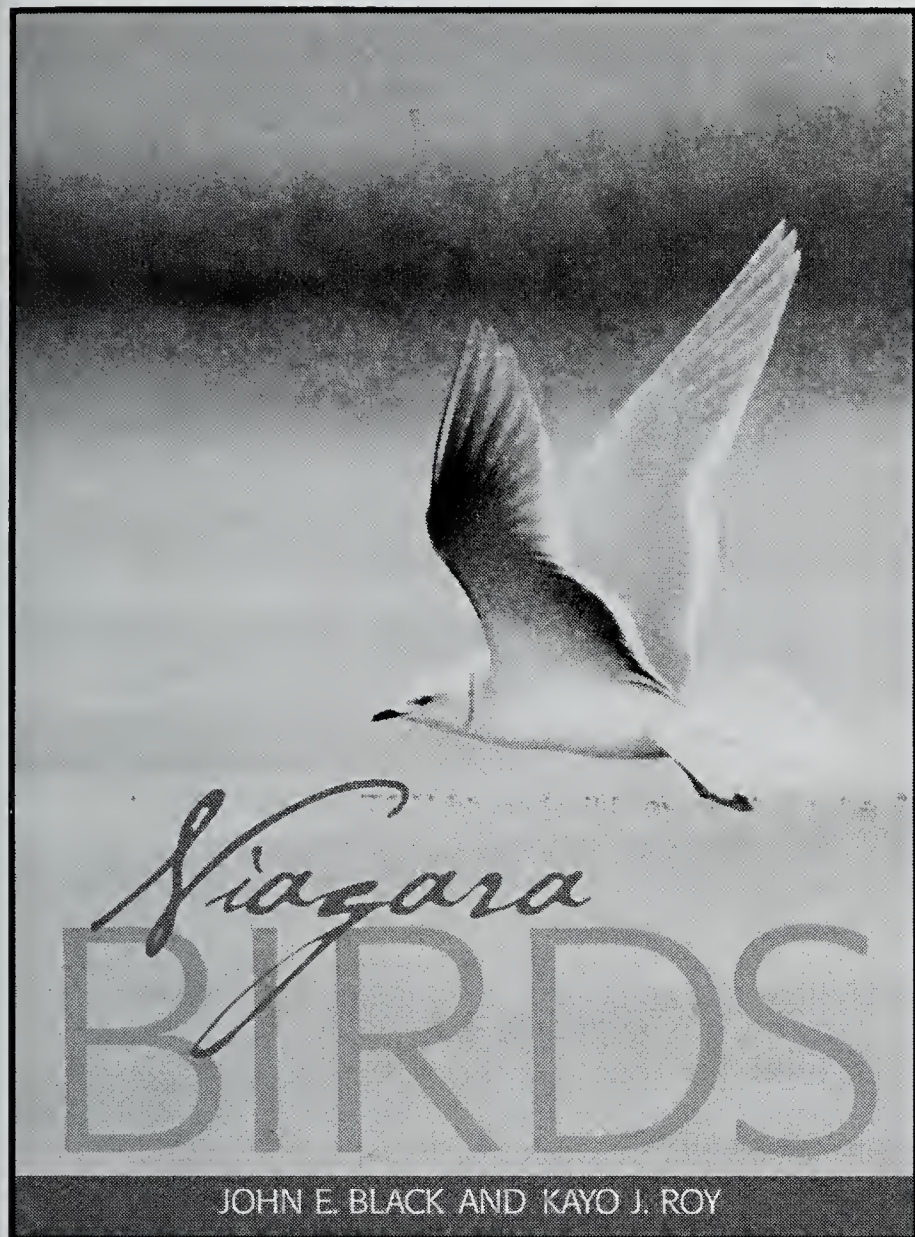
Statisticians' Note Regarding European Greenfinch Sighting: On the afternoon of July 7, 2010, Willie D'Anna and Betsy Potter had the unusual occurrence of watching a bird at a feeder in their yard that could NOT be immediately identified. An aberrant goldfinch was ruled out and after some searching Betsy found the bird in Lars Jonsson's *Birds of Europe* as a European Greenfinch (*Carduelis chloris*). European Greenfinch is an Old World species that has never been accepted as reaching North America as a wild bird. There is certainly a possibility that this species could find its way to North America and it has even been included on a (long) list of predicted "new" species to occur in North America (Campbell 2010). The chances of this bird being a wild straggler from Europe are extremely remote. European Greenfinch is one of several European species kept as cage birds that have been documented in recent years in the Great Lakes region. It is believed that these occurrences stem from the release of caged birds from a dealer in the Chicago area. As this sighting along Lake Ontario fits the pattern of other recent regional sightings, it is considered a likely escapee and European Greenfinch will not be added to the list of avian species documented in the B.O.S. Study Area. We credit Willie and Betsy for documenting this unusual sighting with a verification report and excellent photographs (below) as documentation of escaped birds can be beneficial for the archives. While unlikely, it is certainly possible that some of the escaped birds can breed in the wild and eventually establish a small population. As such, documentation of their occurrences will help identify the spread of this species.

References:

Campbell, Colin. 2010. "Ten Years On: An Analysis of "The Next New ABA Birds". *Birding*. Volume 42, No. 3, May 2010. American Birding Association.

European Greenfinch 7 1 Wilson (f) D'Anna, Potter





'Niagara Birds' Review

Gerry Rising

John Black and Kayo Roy's new book, *Niagara Birds* will be introduced to the public on October 16, and I highly recommend it. This 704-page volume is about the 368 species of birds that occur in the Niagara Regional Municipality of Ontario, which extends from the Canadian side of the Niagara River as far west as Stoney Creek along Lake Ontario and Long Beach along Lake Erie.

The *Niagara Birds* coverage is nearly contiguous with the western half of the region surveyed by BOS and it updates that section since the publication of Clark Beardslee and Harold Mitchell's *Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region* in 1965 and the supplement to that book by Mitchell and Robert Andrie in 1970. In Ontario it incorporates and updates Roy Sheppard's 1970 *Bird Life of Canada's Niagara Frontier*.

Many stateside birders contributed to this book. Mike Hamilton, Bob DeLeon and Richard Stockton were among the 25 authors who wrote chapters, and Mike Morgante wrote species accounts. Numerous United States birders reviewed materials and, of course, even more provided records. BOS "Hotline" monitor and record keeper Dave Suggs and BOS statisticians Andrie, Fran Rew, Tim Baird and Morgante are singled out by the authors for special praise.

What is truly exceptional about *Niagara Birds* is its artwork. From its lovely cover painting by David Beadle of the Ross's gull flying over the Niagara River with New York State a dim blur in the background to the photograph of the elegant broad-winged hawk, the last of the over 500 color photos that grace this book, the artwork is spectacular.

Well-known Ontario photographers and artists contributed their work to this all-volunteer project, among them Raymond Barlow, Brandon Holden, Harold Stiver, Barry Cheriére and Jukka Jantunen. They are extremely well served by layout designer Judie Shore, who has worked them seamlessly into each page. Jean Black and Arleane Ralph's editing contribute as well.

In addition to the species accounts are essays on the history of regional ornithology, (including Audubon's painting of passenger pigeons and an 1804 painting of British soldiers shooting these now extinct birds), a description of this interesting region, and information about its natural history clubs, including BOS. There are other essays about Kay McKeever's Owl Foundation and its problems with the devastating West Nile Virus, about birds in the region's vineyards, about hawk migration and peregrine falcon hacking, about radar tracking of birds, about wintering gulls in the Niagara gorge, about the BOS April, May, October and Christmas bird counts in the region and about where to look for birds in Niagara.

I consider this book truly exceptional and I predict that it will win international awards for its design and exposition. It sets a very high standard for the update of Beardslee and Mitchell now being worked on by Willie D'Anna and Mike Morgante.

Copies of *Niagara Birds* will be available at BOS meetings for \$55.00 They may also be ordered directly from Kayo Roy, 13 Kinsman Court, Fonthill, Ontario, Canada L0S 1E3, with an added \$10 mailing charge. For additional information and an order form, see www.brocku.ca/tren/niagarabirds.

First Documented Successful Breeding of Ospreys on the Niagara River

Bill Watson

Historical Status and Reintroduction

Ospreys were historically and prehistorically probably much more common along the Niagara River than they are today. John Maude, who visited Niagara Falls on August 23, 1800, saw "... a Fish Hawk with a large fish in its claws." In August 1820, Dewitt Clinton found them very common. Davison reported Ospreys or Fish Hawks as breeding along Lake Ontario (Davison 1889) and Dr. Bergtold recalled that they formerly nested on the Moore farm south of Angola on the Lake Erie shore. However, subsequent destruction and filling in of adjacent marsh lands, hunting and human persecution, and, more recently, the introduction of chemicals such as pesticides have greatly reduced the abundance of this species in the last two centuries. After Robert Sundell recorded Ospreys attempting to breed behind the East Randolph Fish Hatchery in the summer of 1948, there was a hiatus during which nesting attempts of Ospreys were not observed (Beardslee and Mitchell 1965) (DiTommaso, Suggs et al. 2006).

In the early 1980's Mary Forness, of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, conducted a hacking program near Allegany Reservoir. According to the Buffalo Ornithological Society Noteworthy Records Data Base on April 7 and 28, 1988, Steve Eaton observed one and then two Ospreys at an Osprey nest in Cold Spring Township, and on May 5 he observed one Osprey actually on the nest. The first young at Allegany Reservoir were reported on July 7, 1990, when I observed two nestlings on the nest with two adults. By June 17, 1997, I could find seven nests that were attended by adult Ospreys. A total of eleven adult Ospreys were counted and a total of seven nestlings could be seen on four of the nests, where nestlings were old enough to be observed. Birding with Mark Schlacter on June 14, 2009, we studied eight active nests, and found eleven adults and ten nestlings (DiTommaso, Suggs et al. 2006). This Osprey population appears to be relatively stable during the last few years.

From 1992 to 1994, Dan Carroll of the NYSDEC introduced a similar Osprey hacking program at Oak Orchard WMA, at the same hacking towers that were used to reintroduce Bald Eagles in the early 1980s. The project involved the release of 31 young Osprey being taken from nests on Long Island, geographically imprinted at Oak Orchard WMA-Iroquois NWR-Tonawanda WMA wetlands complex in Genesee County, and then released. It was hoped after the young Ospreys were imprinted that some would return as adults and breed.

In August of 1997, Ospreys constructed two nests at the Oak Orchard WMA-Iroquois NWR-Tonawanda WMA wetlands complex. During the 1998 breeding

season they nested successfully at Ring-neck Marsh on the Iroquois NWR, producing one young that was first observed on July 24. Since this young Osprey could only be observed briefly when fed by an adult due to its small size, it was obvious that it would fledge well after the then late unfledged juvenile date of July 25, and the nestling Osprey was monitored for a total of 239 minutes between July 24 and August 20. On August 9 (10:32-11:20) it was dutifully fed by the adult female who carefully tore off small pieces of carp (about one-quarter the size of the adults bill). At 11:17 it exercised its wing by taking ten flap and hovered about two feet above the nest, but made no attempt to take a circular test flight. August 12 (9:23-11:18 AM) the now fledgling Osprey was observed in a tree about 30 yards from the nest. It was still being fed by the adults. In conclusion, this bird probably fledged between August 9th and 12th, well beyond the late unfledged juvenile date of July 25 listed then in *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State*. (Andrle and Carroll 1988) (Watson 2005).

In 2003 the first Osprey nest at Tonawanda WMA produced three nestlings, one of which fledged at a record late date between August 27 and 30. In 2003 the number of nests at Tonawanda WMA increased to two, and in 2004 it increased to three nests. Since then the Osprey population at the wetlands complex has been fairly stable, and on July 25, 2009, Dave Gordon and I counted three active nests, five adults, five nestlings, and one fledgling at the Iroquois-Tonawanda complex.

The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State and the *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario* do not show any confirmed nesting of Ospreys in Buffalo Ornithological territory during the early 1980's (Andrle and Carroll 1988). Between 2000 and 2005 there are nine blocks containing confirmed Osprey breeding near Allegany Reservoir and two blocks in the Oak Orchard WMA-Iroquois NWR-Tonawanda WMA wetlands complex. There is also a confirmed block (1467C) (McGowan and Corwin 2008) of a nest at the south side of "the Chautauqua County Airport. It was on a utility pole at the point where Girls Rd. makes a right angle turn. It blew down 3-4 years ago" (Neveu 2010). The Jamestown Airport is about 15 miles west of Allegany Reservoir. For at least the last three years, there has been a nest on Swamp Road in the Town of Randolph 7.5 miles north-northeast of Allegany Reservoir. July 25, 2010, "the adult Osprey" fed "a juvenile in the platform nest on Swamp Road. The juvenile looked big enough to be on its own soon" (Beebe 2010). In Ontario there are six blocks with confirmed Osprey breeding along the Grand River of which one and possible two are located in the BOS area (Cadman 2007).

Osprey Breeding on the Niagara River

Although there is no documented evidence of Ospreys breeding on the Niagara River, based on the abundance of food, nesting trees, and historical abundance of Ospreys at this location, it is likely that Ospreys bred here in the past. Also, since the Osprey is a unique raptor that comprises an old lineage (the oldest fossils are 10-15 million years old) (Poole 2009),

and at least one fossil record of this family dates back to the early Oligocene (about 33 million years ago) Ospreys have had plenty of time to breed at any location with a suitable habitat.

In the 2006 breeding season there was no evidence of an Osprey nest on the National Grid electrical tower at Buckhorn Island State Park. Although three Bald Eagle nestlings were well studied on Navy Island on April 16 (for 90 minutes of observation) May 10 (45 minutes) May 13 (65 minutes) May 22 (105 minutes) and May 25 (15 minutes) only 208 yards west of the future nesting location, no Ospreys were observed.

On June 5, 2007, two adult Ospreys were observed at an Osprey nest that was on the electrical wires next to a National Grid tower near the west end of Buckhorn Island State Park. One of the two Ospreys was sitting on the nest. On July 21st one Osprey was observed at the nest, but flew away as I approached the area. The lack of nest fidelity indicated that the nesting attempt was unsuccessful. Since there were concerns that the presence of the Osprey nest on electrical wires might cause a power failure, on August 9th, the utility teamed up with the New York Power Authority, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and New York State Office of Parks Recreation and Historical Preservation for the installation of a nearby platform, to provide an alternate nesting location when the Ospreys return the next year. A four-by-four foot platform, attached to a 70-foot pole, was installed by National Grid workers, in clear view of the tower where the pair of adult Ospreys had nested (no more than 200 feet away) and may have incubated eggs. In September National Grid transferred the nest to the platform. The platform is one of four that NYPA, NYSDEC, and OPRHP installed to attract Ospreys to the upper Niagara River.

Although no Ospreys were observed at Buckhorn on April 9, 2008, by April 26th and June 6th at least one Osprey had returned to the nest. To protect the nest from disturbance a fence was placed across the entrance of the spit by United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Unfortunately this not only limited observations of the Ospreys, but also prevented observation of the Bald Eagle nest on Navy Island. Viewing from across the river at the water intakes in Niagara Falls on June 9th both Ospreys were observed at the nest, but on June 30th between 8:05 and 8:40 PM EDT there were no Ospreys at the nest and again the nesting attempt did not produce viable young.

The year 2009 was a banner year for Ospreys breeding on the Niagara River. Not only were the Ospreys breeding at Buckhorn Island S. P. finally successful, but a second Osprey nest in Tonawanda was also successful! An Osprey was first observed at the Buckhorn nest on the seventh of May. On July 9th both adult Ospreys were at the nest and at 10:45 AM the male flew in with a fish that the female then fed to one nestling. August 4th an Osprey adult and the one well-developed nestling were standing on the nest. About 20 minutes after this observation two Ospreys were observed flying away from the nest. Although the nestling was not observed leaving the nest, an extended observation of the nest did not find any

nestling, and it is assumed the young Osprey had fledged. After two years of unsuccessful breeding attempts the Ospreys at Buckhorn Island S. P. had finally produced a viable young.

Meanwhile 7.6 miles upstream along the Niagara River in the Town of Tonawanda a second Osprey nest was also about to produce a fledgling. While observing the waterfowl during the 2008-2009 winter at Mid River Marina, I observed a loose collection of sticks and plastic bags at the top of an upright conveyor belt about 500 yards to the north, that looked more like a bush rather than an Osprey nest. Jim Pawlicki informed me it was definitely an Osprey nest and he had been told of this by Connie Adams of the NYSDEC. On April 2nd an Osprey in slow undulating courtship flight was observed over Motor Island, and on April 29th an adult Osprey was seen at the nest. By May 28th the Osprey was sitting on the nest in apparent incubating position. Both adults were at the nest on June 3rd and one was in incubating position. Observing again from Mid River Marina between 3:20 and 3:35 PM on July 7th, the brief wing flap of a nestling Osprey was observed. Both adults were at the nest. July 20th between 11:35 and 11:55 AM. The young Osprey was fully feathered and nearly adult size. On August 5th the nest was empty. Then the female flew in at 8:50 AM, and at 8:55 the male flew in and landed on the female and copulated for about five seconds. At 9:18 the male left the nest and at 9:35 AM the female left the nest and observations were terminated. The nestling Osprey was not observed during the study period, and it was assumed that it had fledged. Since Osprey broods are not replaced if they are lost (McGowan and Corwin 2008), it is likely that the observed copulation was only a pair bonding behavior and not a re-nesting attempt due to the loss of its young.

Discussion

Clearly, Ospreys like Bald Eagles, Peregrine Falcons, and Merlins have made a remarkable come back since the banning of DDT, and hacking programs have reintroduced many hawks to new areas in New York State. These birds are not only being successful in environments where they have been introduced by hacking, but are nesting and being successful in other new breeding areas as well. The successful nesting of two Osprey families on the Niagara River is an excellent example of this phenomenon.

The nesting of Ospreys on the Niagara River raises several questions. Do the fledgling dates support the hypothesis that the first nesting attempts result in unusually late egg, nestling, and fledgling dates? Does the low fledgling per nest productivity on the Niagara River suggest the river is polluted? Are more nesting Ospreys likely in our area, and what observational clues can help observers find their nests?

Do the fledgling dates support the hypothesis that the first nesting attempts result in unusually late egg, nestling, and fledgling dates? The young Osprey at Buckhorn Island probably fledged August 4th (or a few days before) while the Tonawanda Osprey likely

fledged between July 20 and August 5th. *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State* gives nestling dates of June 18 to July 25, while *The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State* has an early nestling date of April 9 and a late nestling date of August 15, so we can conclude that both Ospreys fledged unusually late. It is not unusual for first nestings at new locations to be late. This phenomenon was also observed in Bald Eagles (Watson 1990) Great Blue Herons (Watson 1994) Great Egrets (Watson 2001) and in Ospreys (Watson 2005) in which in the latter a late nestling date of August 27th was observed. Initial nest construction is time consuming, requires energy, and delays egg laying. However, if nests have been previously constructed, it is only necessary to make a few minor repairs before the nest is ready for eggs. Also, inexperienced birds may be less skilled at withholding food and assisting the nestlings to an early flight weight. Since the nest at Tonawanda was constructed in 2008 and first used the next year in 2009, it seems likely that experience is an important factor determining early and late nesting. It may be that inexperienced Ospreys nesting for the first time tend to lay their eggs late, whereas more experienced Ospreys that are nesting for at least the second time generally lay their eggs earlier in the year (Watson 2005).

Does the low nestling or fledgling per nest productivity of Ospreys on the Niagara River suggest the river is polluted? The nest at Buckhorn Island State Park from 2007 to 2009 is believed to have produced only one fledgling in 2009 or .33 fledglings per nesting attempt. The Tonawanda nest is believed to have produced one fledgling in 2009 (one fledgling per nesting attempt). Clearly, the low nest productivity of only .5 fledglings/nesting attempt on the Niagara River is disturbing and may be direct evidence of reproductive failure (the inability to produce viable young). Ospreys usually lay three eggs. A Westport, Massachusetts, study of 94 nests had a range of 2 to 4 eggs per nest and a mean of 3.3 eggs per nest; however, a study of 86 nests in Baja, California, had a mean of only 2.63 eggs per nest (+ or – 0.58 SE) with 5.8% nests having one egg, 24.4% two eggs, and 69.7% three eggs. These and other studies all showed a mode of three eggs per nest (Poole et al 2002). We cannot equate clutch size with nestling or fledgling size. Some eggs may be infertile, young may die during or after hatching, and nestlings may perish due to disease, predation, and starvation. Two Osprey studies with reproductive failure suggest that the low productivity may be due to long commutes for food by adults or disturbed ecosystems with less food available. In 1986 Hagan et al in North Carolina studied about 40 nests in each of two years. They found the most significant productive loss was when nestlings were two to three weeks of age, during the period of peak growth. The number of nestlings dropped from 2.3 nestlings per nest at hatching to .9-.1.0 nestlings at near fledgling. They concluded, sibling aggression was common, and males had very long commutes for food, suggesting starvation of nestlings and brood reduction. Bowman et al (1989) found .56 (+ or - 0.8 SE) young per active-nest for 34 nests in Florida Bay and 1.21 (+ or – 1.0 SE) for 19 nests in the Florida Keys. They concluded that Florida Bay is a more disturbed

ecosystem with less food available (Poole et al 2002). Certainly, on the Niagara River adult Ospreys do not have a long commute in providing food for their young, nor is there low food availability. Comparing Osprey nest productivity of .5 nestlings per active nest at the Niagara River to Osprey productivity at the other new Osprey breeding areas in Western New York: The 2009 nest productivity at the Iroquois NWR-Tonawanda complex was 2.0 nestlings per active nest. The nest productivity at Allegany Reservoir was 1.25 nestlings per active-nest in 2009 and 1.75 nestlings per active nest in 1997. In conclusion, although the sample size on the Niagara River is small (N=4) the extremely low nest productivity is reason for concern, even when it is compared to Osprey colonies with a disturbed ecosystem with a low food supply. However, this summer two nestling Ospreys were found on the Tonawanda nest on July 2nd and two nestling Ospreys were found on the Buckhorn Island nest. This and the fact that a new nest found by Mike Galas along the Niagara River in Wheatfield did not have any young, as well as other data, suggests low Osprey productivity may be the result of inexperienced Osprey at new nest locations rather than pollution on the Niagara River. Certainly the fact that it took the Ospreys at Buckhorn three years to produce viable young suggests that this area of the Niagara River needs toxicological study. In the 1990s unsuccessful breeding of Double-crested Cormorants, nesting on the nearby water diversion weir at Buckhorn Island State Park supports the need to study the contamination in this area. (There were eight cormorant nests on the Buckhorn Island weir in 1992, fifteen nests in 1993, and 46 cormorant nests in 1994. Despite the fact that most of the nests were persistently incubated by the adult birds, all 64 nesting attempts failed to produce even one viable young cormorant (Watson 1995)).

Are more nesting Ospreys likely in our area, and what observational clues can help observers find their nests? The Atlases of the 1980s and 2000s show a dramatic increase in the number of Osprey nests. During the second atlas survey Ospreys were “reported in 147 percent more blocks; the number of blocks with Confirmed records increased by 163 percent”...“While no nesting was reported in southwestern New York during the first Atlas period, 15 breeding pairs were present in the area in (2006 NYSDEC unpubl. Data)” (Nye 2008). The recent expansion of breeding Ospreys from areas where they were hacked to Chautauqua County and the Niagara River indicates that the expansion is likely to continue. Observers should be cautioned that an Osprey carrying food is not by itself an indication of confirmed breeding, because Ospreys will carry fish until they find a suitable perch to consume their prey. A confirmed block 2279B in Orleans County may have been based on this possibly false premise. The best time to look for Osprey nests is in the latter half of April before the tree foliage makes their nests difficult to find. Likely Osprey nests that are found in winter should also be checked again in late April or early May.

Birders should also check the new platforms erected by NYPA, NYSDEC, and OPRHP at Buckhorn Island State Park, at East River Marsh, (Beaver Island), at Adam’s Landing near the Spoils Pile at

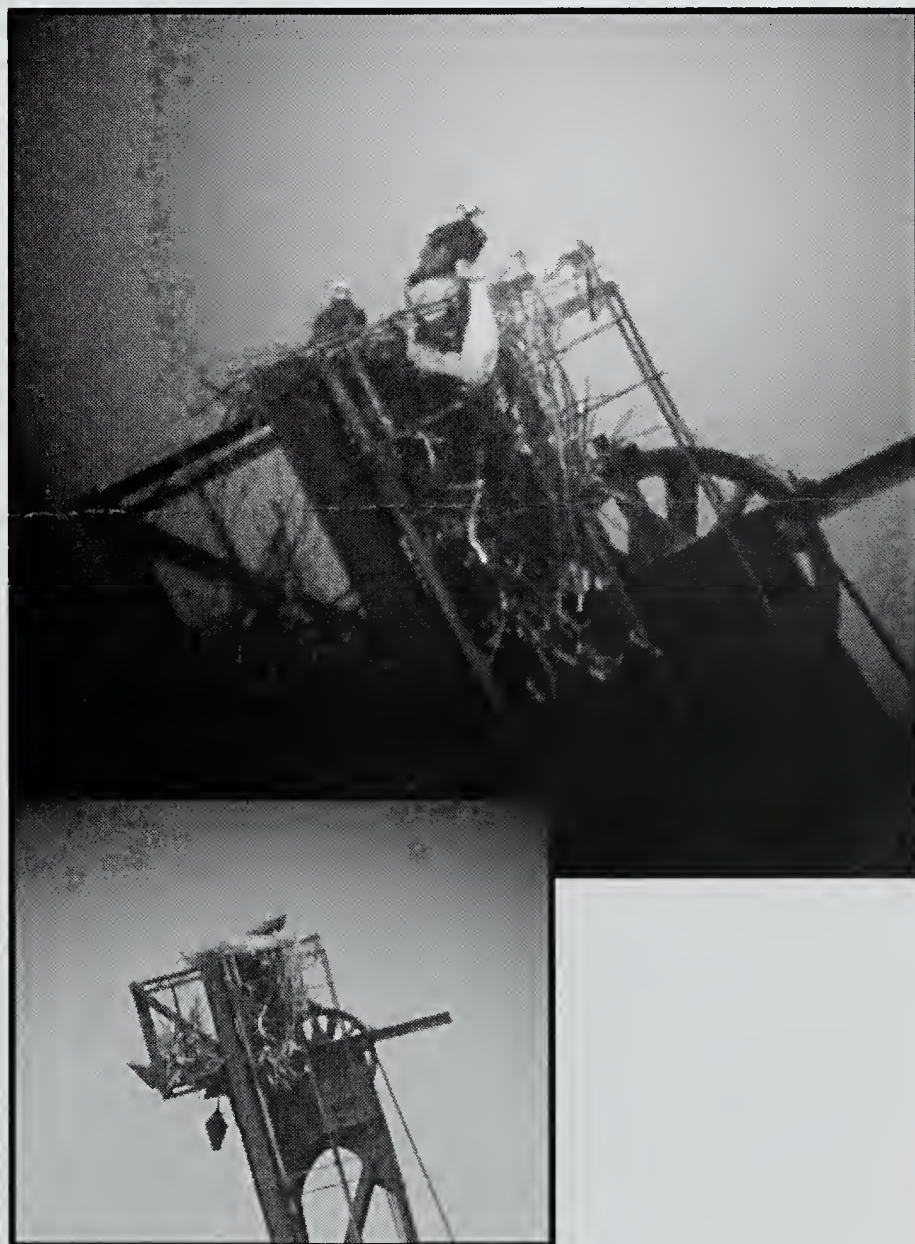
Niagara Falls, and at Tiff Nature Preserve. There will be probably two more erected at the 101st Street Landfill and at the new wetland area being created along the West River at Beaver Island State Park, in the little wet pond area, not far from the sledding hill.

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(Upper) Osprey and nest photographed in the Town of Wheatfield by Bill Watson in August, 2010. The communication tower is less than a quarter mile from the Niagara River. (Lower) Osprey and nest on top of a conveyer belt that is used for unloading and loading ships on the Niagara River. The structure is located behind The Tonawanda Asphalt property in the Town of Tonawanda. Photograph taken by Bill Watson in June, 2009.





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September - November Calendar & Announcements

Buffalo-Niagara Regions Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

Oct. 10: Sunday. BOS Annual October Count. Thanks to our new compiler for this count, Marcia Jacklin; mjacklin@brocku.ca or 905-871-2577

Oct. 13: Wednesday. BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Robert DeLeon will discuss "BOS May Count 2010 and BOS First Arrival Dates as an Indicator of Climate Change". Robert will present a brief description of the 2010 May Count followed by a review of migrant arrival dates from the B.O.S. Noteworthy Records Database. Then John Black and Kayo Roy will also be at this meeting with a supply of their new book "Niagara Birds" for sale, a beautiful volume of some 704 pages (cost \$55.00). They will say a few things about their book and how it was conceived and put together. See Gerry Rising's review on page 77.

Oct. 22-24: NYSOA Annual Meeting 2010 in Auburn, NY - Montezuma Wetland Complex Region. For details see: New York Birders 39:2:12-13 or http://www.nybirds.org/Articles/AnnMtg2010_flyer.pdf.

Oct. 30: Saturday not Sunday. Lake Ontario Plain Field Trip for fall migrants. Leader: Willie D'Anna (751-3637 or dannapotter@roadrunner.com). Meet at 8 a.m. at Tops Market in Wright's Corners. This is on the east side of Route 78 at Route 104.

Nov. 10: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Jean Iron, former president of the Ontario Field Ornithologists, will discuss Birds of James Bay.

Nov. 21: Sun. Niagara River trip with Rochester Birding Association, for gulls and waterfowl. Meet at 9 AM at Fort Niagara State Park in the parking lot just outside the old fort. Make sure you have a passport, passport card, Nexus, or enhanced drivers license. Dress warmly. Leaders: RBA Bob Spahn (585-671-5690 or RSPAHN@prodigy.net).

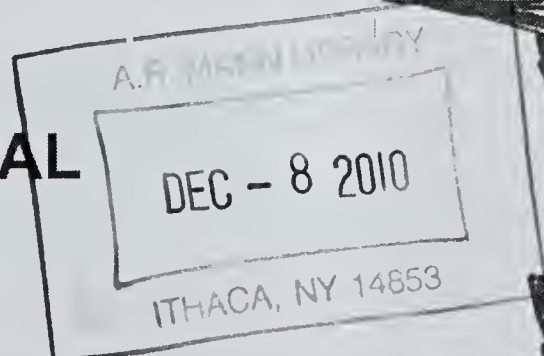
Dec. 8: Buffalo Ornithological Society Annual Holiday Celebration at 7:00 PM in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Science Museum. Please bring a treat to share and enjoy an evening of birding friendship. We will also have election of officers for 2011.

July Shorebird Field Trip *Bill Watson*

Sunday July 25th five birders reported at 7:00 AM at Vermont and Busti near the Peace Bridge for the Canadian shoreline of Lake Erie for shorebirds. Under the more than capable leadership of Doug Happ we proceeded to Rock Point Provincial Park where we observed six Spotted Sandpipers, two Least Sandpipers, and a Lesser Yellowlegs. We then went about a mile north to the Mozaic Ponds where things greatly improved. In addition to the species observed at Rock Point P. P. we found two Short-billed Dowitchers, three Greater Yellowlegs, twelve Lesser Yellowlegs, many Killdeer, more Least Sandpipers, a Semipalmated Sandpiper, two Pied-billed Grebes, and two Blue-winged Teal. At the Feeder Road Sod Farm turf was not abundant because much of the farm was planted with corn; however, things were better at the Poth Road sod farms and we did see 14 Horned Larks as well as, Savannah Sparrow and heard a singing Indigo Bunting nearby. At our last stop at Kraft Road there was a Sanderling and a Semipalmated Plover giving us a total of nine shorebird species. There were also eleven Least Sandpipers and twelve Semipalmated Sandpipers. Everyone had fun, especially teasing me about forgetting my passport.

The Prothonotary

BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Volume 76, No. 9 September 2010

THE MONTH: August

Jim Pawlicki

August of 2010 was warm and dry, a continuation of the above average temperatures and low rainfall that characterized the summer. The month's warmth was consistent with 24 out of 31 days above average, but not extreme as no temperature records were set. Rainfall totaled 1.84 inches, 2.03 inches below normal with most falling during scattered thunderstorms that raked the region mid-month. Overall, August turned out 61% of normal sunshine and a mean average temperature of 71.7 °F, 2.6 degrees above average.

Due to the summer's limited rainfall, there were fewer flooded fields present this month for migrating shorebirds to utilize on their migration south. With this widespread lack of flooded fields, many of the month's shorebirds were observed from lakeshore sites such as Rock Point Provincial Park (Ont.), Long Beach Conservation Area (Ont.), and Lasalle Park on the Buffalo Waterfront. In addition to several Baird's and White-rumped Sandpipers, notable shorebirds included Whimbrels at Lasalle Park and Long Beach Conservation Area, Buff-breasted Sandpipers at Elba and Lasalle Park, and Red-necked Phalaropes at Fort Niagara State Park, Long Beach Conservation Area, and the Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area.

By far the most significant sighting of month was the region's first record of Black-bellied Whistling Duck found at the Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area by Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge biologist Paul Hess. Found on the evening of August 11th, this brightly colored southern "tree duck" lingered in a small roadside cattail marsh near Cayuga Pool Overlook until at least the 22nd when it was last verified by D'Anna.

Oneida Co. on May 31, and a single individual observed at Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Queens Co. on July 31. If accepted by the NYS Avian Records Committee, this and the two other sightings from Oneida Lake and Jamaica Bay would represent the first records of the species in New York State. In addition to New York, multiple sightings of Black-bellied Whistling Ducks occurred this spring and summer from several nearby states and provinces including Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, New Jersey, Maine, and Ontario. Although Black-bellied Whistling Ducks can be held in captivity at zoos and waterfowl farms, taking into account the time of year, the large number of individuals involved, and the propensity for Whistling Ducks to wander north of their range, the probability of wild origin greatly outweighs that of captive origin.

As typical for August, the first push of fall migrant songbirds occurred during the second half of the month with several species of warblers, vireos, and flycatchers noted throughout the region. In addition to an increase

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The record was one of three sightings of Black-bellied Whistling Ducks that occurred this past spring and summer within New York State, including a flock of 5 birds observed at Oneida Lake,



Black-bellied Whistling-Duck photographed by Willie D'Anna at Tonawanda WMA on August 22nd. This bird was first reported here by Hess & Stuart on August 11th, a new species for the B.O.S. Region.

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in widespread observations of localized breeding species such as Black-and-white, Canada, and Magnolia Warblers, northerly breeding warblers such as Cape May, Blackpoll, Wilson's, and Tennessee were observed at known stop-over sites such as Tifft Nature Preserve and Rock Point Provincial Park. Notable vireos and flycatchers included 4 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers on the 15th at Wainfleet Bog, and Philadelphia Vireos on the 20th and 27th at Forest Lawn Cemetery and Tifft Nature Preserve, respectively.

While visiting Dunkirk Harbor on August 9th, Dave Neveu spotted and then carefully identified a juvenile Yellow-crowned Night-Heron that

was standing in the shallows at the west end of the harbor. Over the following week the bird spent much of its time standing motionless along the shoreline, allowing many to observe and photograph its long legs and neck, nearly all dark stout bill, and small white spots on upperwing coverts, all of which separate it from the similar juvenile Black-crowned Night-Heron. Although there are 23 previous records of Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in the BOS archives, this represents only the third record in the region since 2002, and by far one of the most cooperative individuals. The two previous records over the last decade were on 10 August 2002 at Wainfleet (Ont.) by D'Anna, and 3 July 2008 at Strawberry Island by Teal.

Other highlights from the month included single Least Bitterns observed at Warsaw and Tifft Nature Preserve on the 2nd and 4th/26th respectively, a Jaeger species at Fort Niagara State Park on the 15th, and 3 Whip-poor-wills at Wainfleet Bog on the 26th.

I would like to thank Mike Morgante and Bill Watson for their comments and suggestions. I would like to dedicate this write-up of *The Month* to the late David Neveu, whose extensive knowledge of and appreciation for bird-watching in Chautauqua County will surely continue to live on in anyone who has been fortunate enough to have known or birded with him.

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Birdingonthe.net mailing list archives found at: <http://birdingonthe.net/maillinglists/holzmanarchives.html>



Juvenile Yellow-crowned Night-Heron photographed by Joseph Mitchell at Dunkirk Harbor on August 11, 2010.

Statisticians' Note: Black-bellied Whistling-Duck Record

Mike Morgante

Paul Hess, Iroquois NWR biologist, spotted and photographed a **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** along Route 77 on the Tonawanda WMA in the evening of 11 August. Subsequently we learned that Will Stuart and Jill Palmer had also spotted it earlier in the day. Numerous birders were able to see this duck over the next two weeks at the same location; however, it was often not an easy find as the bird would stay hidden from view in cattails. Many birders first looks came when the duck would suddenly burst out of the vegetation and fly around in circles while giving its bizarre whistling call, only to return to same or nearby spot.

(Black-bellied Whistling Duck continued on page 88)

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (8th Edition - Revised 2009) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for the species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

* = First record for the year.

F - First record for the migration.

L - Last record for the migration.

(f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of nestling or fledgling.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PV - Indicates Previously Documented

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Ave., Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com

<u>Species</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
* <u>Black-b. Whistling-Duck</u>	11	1	Tonawanda WMA	Hess, Stuart
"	12	1	Tonawanda WMA	Watson, Lazarczyk, Mitchell
"	12, 19	1	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki
"	14, 22	1	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna
"	21	1	Tonawanda WMA	Landau, Wojewodzki,
Wood Duck	21	28	Tift NP	Watson
Gadwall	16; 22	10; 4	Batavia WWTP	D'Anna et al; Watson
"	27	6	Warsaw	Bisson
American Black Duck	14	6	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Blue-winged Teal	1	6	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
"	16	50	Batavia WWTP	D'Anna et al
"	18	32	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson
Northern Shoveler	7; 16	1; 1	Batavia WWTP	Fox; D'Anna et al
"	29	1	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson, Landon (BOS)
Green-winged Teal	4F, 21	1, 2	Tift NP	Watson
"	16	6	Batavia WWTP	D'Anna et al
"	29	20	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson, Happ (BOS)
"	31	15	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell
Redhead	18	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
White-winged Scoter	29F	5	Fort Niagara SP	Wheeler
Bufflehead	14F; 16; 22	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox; D'Anna; Watson
Ruddy Duck	7; 14; 22	15; 12; 19	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Mitchell; Watson
Wild Turkey	28	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Watson et al
Common Loon	29F	1	Fort Niagara SP	Wheeler
Pied-billed Grebe	4, 27	37, 79	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
D.-crested Cormorant	1, 7	964, 889	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	18, 29	1200, 700	Mohawk I. (Ont)	Watson (BOS)
American Bittern	7; 12	1; 1	Iroquois NWR	Powell, Lazarczyk et al
"	12	1	Tonawanda WMA	Salembier
Least Bittern	2	1	Warsaw	Bisson
"	4; 29	1; 1	Tift NP	Watson et al; Morgante
"	12; 22	1; 1	Tonawanda WMA	Mitchell; Wood
Great Egret	1 - 31	1 - 2	Tonawanda	Hess
"	4; 19	12; 20	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell
"	4	104	Tonawanda WMA	Watson, Pawlicki
"	22	5	Alexander	Dart
"	23	1	Times Beach NP	Hess
* <u>Yel.-cr. Night-Heron</u>	9, 12	1 juv	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	9, 15	1 juv	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki
"	9	1 juv	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson, Lazarczyk
"	10	1 juv	Dunkirk Harbor	Newton
Osprey	1	1	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
"	4	3 ad + 3 juv	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	6	2	Conewango Swamp WMA	Mitchell
"	7	1	Harmony	Berry
"	10	1	Alfred	Brooks

<u>Species</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	20	1 ad + n	Tonawanda	Watson
Bald Eagle	3, 6, 26	1 juv	Sheridan	Neveu
"	14	1	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell
"	23	1 ad	Mouth of Catt. Creek	Yoerg
"	24	1 imm	Allegheny Reservoir	Hess
"	26	2 ad	Tonawanda WMA	Watson, Weseloh
Northern Harrier	15	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	27	1	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Peregrine Falcon	2, 6	1, 2	N. Buffalo	Yoerg, Henderson
"	26	1 imm	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg
Virginia Rail	12	4; 1	Tonawanda WMA	Watson; Salembier
Sora	12; 14	3; 1	Tonawanda WMA	Mitchell et al; Morgante
Common Moorhen	13	2 ad + yg	Tonawanda WMA	Salembier
"	21	2 ad + 2 yg	Tifft NP	Watson
American Coot	1	1	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
"	16	1	Batavia WWTP	D'Anna et al
Black-bellied Plover	18	32	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	19	1	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell
"	26	52	Haldimand (Ont)	Yoerg
Amer. Golden-Plover	26F; 27	1; 2	Alexander	Mitchell; Beattie et al
Killdeer	23	50	Elba	Mitchell
Spotted Sandpiper	7	31	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Solitary Sandpiper	7	3	Villanova	Neveu
"	7	13	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Greater Yellowlegs	15	1	Kiantone	Berry
"	18	4	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson
"	26	2	Long Beach CA (Ont)	Yoerg
"	26	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
Lesser Yellowlegs	14	17	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	18	28	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson
"	20; 31	6; 30	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg; Mitchell
"	26	4	Mosaic Ponds (Ont)	Yoerg
Whimbrel	26	1	Long Beach CA (Ont)	Yoerg
"	30	1	LaSalle Pk, Bflo	Lazarczyk, Watson et al
Ruddy Turnstone	18; 26	1; 2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki; Yoerg
"	30	1	LaSalle Pk, Bflo	Mitchell, Pawlicki et al
* Red Knot	26F	2	Long Beach CA (Ont)	Yoerg
"	29	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson, Happ (BOS)
Sanderling	7; 18	2; 8	Rock Point PP (Ont)	D'Anna et al; Watson et al
"	15	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Lenz
"	30	3	LaSalle Pk, Bflo	Lazarczyk, Mitchell et al
Semipalm. Sandpiper	26	30	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg
White-r. Sandpiper	7; 18; 26	1; 1; 3	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Potter; Pawlicki; Yoerg
* Baird's Sandpiper	14F; 19	1; 1	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Mitchell
"	18	4	Dunnville (Ont)	Pawlicki et al
"	26	1	Alexander	Mitchell
"	26	5	Haldimand (Ont)	Yoerg
"	30	1	LaSalle Pk, Bflo.	Pawlicki, Watson, Yoerg
Pectoral Sandpiper	7	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	22	1	Elba	Watson
"	31	4	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell
* Buff-br. Sandpiper	21F	1	Elba	Mitchell
"	30	1	LaSalle Pk, Bflo.	Mitchell, Pawlicki et al
Short-b. Dowitcher	3	1	Sheridan	Neveu
"	22; 23	1; 1	Elba	Watson; Mitchell
Wilson's Snipe	14	1	Tonawanda WMA	Beattie
"	22	2	Elba	D'Anna, Watson et al
"	28	1	BOS Sanctuary, Grand I.	Lazarczyk
"	31	6	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell
* Red-neck. Phalarope	26F	1	Long Beach CA (Ont)	Yoerg
"	26F	1	Fort Niagara SP	Wheeler
"	27	3	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Bonaparte's Gull	1	1 juv	Batavia WWTP	D'Anna, Potter

<u>Species</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	1	1juv	Oak Orchard WMA	D'Anna, Guthrie
"	16	80	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki, Wheeler
"	28	20	Morgan's Point (Ont)	Watson et al (BOS)
Ring-billed Gull	15	800	Dunkirk Harbor	Lenz
Herring Gull	15	1400	Dunkirk Harbor	Lenz
Caspian Tern	1	1	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
"	14	1	Tonawanda WMA	Morgante
"	15	15	Dunkirk Harbor	Lenz
"	15, 18	18, 16	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
"	21	27	Point Breeze	Griffith
Black Tern	12	2	Tonawanda WMA	Lazarczyk, Salembier et al
"	16	6	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki, Wheeler
Common Tern	15	200	Long Beach CA (Ont)	Watson et al
"	16	120	Fort Niagara SP	Wheeler, Pawlicki
<u>Jaeger species</u>	16	1	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki, Wheeler
Black-billed Cuckoo	4	1	Tift NP	Watson, Pawlicki
Common Nighthawk	1 - 31	1	N. Buffalo	Yoerg, Henderson
"	10F, 30	1, 9	Williamsville	Salembier
"	29	3	Tonawanda	Hess
"	30	6	Lancaster	Mitchell
"	30	2	Amherst	Pawlicki
Whip-poor-will	26	3	Wainfleet Bog (Ont)	Yoerg
Red-headed Wdpkr.	2	1	Amherst	Pawlicki
"	18	6	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
Eastern Wood-Pewee	28	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Watson et al
Yellow-b. Flycatcher	15	4	Wainfleet Bog (Ont)	Watson et al
Acadian Flycatcher	7	2	Villanova	Neveu
"	8	1	Carroll	Berry
Willow Flycatcher	31	2	Alexander	Dart
Least Flycatcher	20F	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Philadelphia Vireo	20F	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Pawlicki, Gordon
"	27	1	Tift NP	D'Anna
Common Raven	7	2	Andover	Brooks
"	9, 18	1, 2	Alfred	Brooks
"	26	2	Ward	Brooks
Horned Lark	29	41	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson, Happ (BOS)
N. Rough-w. Swallow	7	95	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Bank Swallow	7	170	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Cliff Swallow	7	1	Wainfleet (Ont)	D'Anna
"	15	5	Porter	D'Anna
Red-br. Nuthatch	28F	2	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Watson, Wheeler
Carolina Wren	1 - 26	1 - 2	Williamsville	Salembier
"	8	1	Tift NP	Watson
Winter Wren	26	1	Ward	Brooks
Veery	27F	1	Wilson	Potter
"	29	3	Tonawanda (night)	Hess
Northern Mockingbird	3, 17	1, 1	Tonawanda	Watson
"	29	2	Tift NP	Morgante
Brown Thrasher	21	1	Tift NP	Watson
Blue-winged Warbler	15	1	Wainfleet Bog (Ont)	Watson et al
"	20	1	Alden	Mitchell
"	21F	1	Tift NP	Watson
Tennessee Warbler	20F	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Nashville Warbler	27F	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Yellow Warbler	6	20	Fort Erie (Ont)	Pawlicki, Watson
Chestnut-s. Warbler	15	7	Wainfleet Bog (Ont)	Watson et al
"	18	2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	20	1	Alden	Mitchell
Magnolia Warbler	18F	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	20	1	Alden	Mitchell
"	21	1	Tift NP	Watson et al
"	27	1	Williamsville	Salembier

<u>Species</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Cape May Warbler	18F	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	21	2	Tifft NP	Watson et al
"	21	1	West Almond	Lenz
Bl.-thr. Blue Warbler	27F	1	Wilson	Potter
Blackburnian Warbler	15	1	Wainfleet Bog (Ont)	Watson et al
"	27F	1	Wilson	Potter
Blackpoll Warbler	18F	3	Alden	Mitchell
Black-&-white Warb.	15	4	Wainfleet Bog (Ont)	Watson et al
"	18	1	Alden	Mitchell
Ovenbird	27F	1	Wilson	Potter
Northern Waterthrush	4F	1	Tifft NP	Watson, Pawlicki et al
"	20	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	27	2	Wilson	Potter
Wilson's Warbler	27F	3	Delaware Park	Gordon
"	28	1	Alden	Mitchell
Canada Warbler	1	1	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
"	15	4	Wainfleet Bog (Ont)	Watson
"	16F	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	18	3	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Pawlicki, Watson
"	25	1	Alden	Mitchell
Scarlet Tanager	19F	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	21	1	Tifft NP	Watson, Pawlicki
Bobolink	14	40	Tonawanda WMA	Morgante
"	18	20	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
Brown-head. Cowbird	27	98	Tonawanda	Watson
Orchard Oriole	1	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	7L	1	Stromness (Ont)	D'Anna
Baltimore Oriole	29	7	Tifft NP	Morgante

Species, subspecies and named hybrids previously recorded: 263

New species, subspecies, and named hybrids recorded this month: 006

Total for the year 2010 (to date): **269**

Statisticians' Note: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please advise us of any errors in the Noteworthy Records.

(Black-bellied Whistling Duck - continued from page 84)

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck breeds in Mexico, Central America and South America south to northern Argentina. Within the U.S., it is most prevalent as a breeder in Texas, where it has increased its range as well as spread to Arizona, Louisiana, Arkansas, Florida, and other southern states in recent decades, with some of the expansion helped by releases and escapes. It is considered migratory only in the northern extent of its range. Sightings of this species have been creeping northward and with greater frequency in recent years.

This sighting follows an apparent northerly incursion of this species that began in the spring, including two previous sightings in New York State in 2010. Given the recent spate of records in 2010 and no evidence of captivity for this bird, it is most logical to consider it as a wild bird and not an escapee.

With acceptance of this verification report, there are now 391 species, 22 recognizable subspecies, and two named hybrids on the official B.O.S. list. This is the third new species addition (Say's Phoebe, Kirtland's Warbler and Black-bellied Whistling-Duck) since the eighth 2006 edition of the Date Guide was issued in

2006 and the second this year (Kirtland's Warbler and Black-bellied Whistling-Duck).

References:

James, J. Dale and Jonathan E. Thompson. 2001. Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/578doi:10.2173/bna.578>

B.O.S. Shorebird Count - August 18, 2010

Lynne Landon

Weather Synopsis: Sunrise: 6:21 AM EDT. The Shorebird Count day dawned with cloudy skies, low ceilings and fog along most of the shoreline. Scattered showers and occasional drizzle associated with an advancing cold front continued until late morning. Temperatures ranged from the mid 70's at dawn to near 80 by noon. Winds were from the west-southwest at 10-15 mph.

The total number of shorebirds was the lowest since the count was reinstated. A possible reason was the poor weather, totals for the last 2 years are about half compared to the numbers from 2001-2007. There was an unusually high number of Baird's Sandpipers (22) in reach one. There are typically a few (see ten year table below) scattered along the count territory, with the previous high numbers being 20 in 1958, 11 in 2002 & 2004 and 13 in 2005. There was a notable lack of Short-billed Dowitchers again this year, although I received anecdotal accounts of them being observed in wetlands and quarries inland.

Species	Reach 1	Reach 2	Reach 3	Reach 4	Reach 5	Reach 6	Reach 7	Reach 8	Reach 9	Reach 10	Total
Black-bellied Plover	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4
American Golden Plover	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Piping Plover	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Semipalmated Plover	12	13	2	0	36	3	0	0	0	5	71
Killdeer	6	32	9	6	12	6	3	3	0	0	77
Greater Yellowlegs	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Lesser Yellowlegs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	6
Solitary Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Willet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spotted Sandpiper	25	27	3	7	13	7	1	8	0	4	95
Upland Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whimbrel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marbled Godwit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Turnstone	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Red Knot	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sanderling	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
Semipalmated Sandpiper	8	3	0	0	49	0	0	1	0	5	66
Western Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Least Sandpiper	22	44	4	9	86	0	1	0	0	24	190
White-rumped Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baird's Sandpiper	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22
Pectoral Sandpiper	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	7
Purple Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dunlin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stilt Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Short-billed Dowitcher	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Long-billed Dowitcher	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Common Snipe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
American Woodcock	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wilson's Phalarope	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red-necked Phalarope	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red Phalarope	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unidentified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	98	122	20	22	198	16	5	14	0	51	546

Ten year Summary of BOS Shorebird Counts

Species	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Black-bellied Plover	30	58	12	10	1	6	4	9	0	4
American Golden Plover	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Piping Plover	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Semipalmated Plover	51	80	116	118	79	127	68	47	27	71
Killdeer	264	132	265	139	156	44	367	101	95	77
Greater Yellowlegs	28	23	44	2	7	3	11	2	0	3
Lesser Yellowlegs	336	204	98	12	95	10	122	7	2	6
Solitary Sandpiper	6	3	2	1	2	3	5	1	1	0
Willet	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spotted Sandpiper	170	115	140	67	103	116	104	82	70	95
Upland Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whimbrel	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marbled Godwit	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Ruddy Turnstone	3	20	14	3	9	3	0	7	1	2
Red Knot	3	1	0	1	3	1	0	1	0	0
Sanderling	15	73	25	7	29	86	10	17	11	3
Semipalmated Sandpiper	215	322	527	229	490	338	89	167	396	66
Western Sandpiper	0	0	2	4	1	0	0	0	0	0
Least Sandpiper	294	339	257	173	420	308	394	93	113	190
White-rumped Sandpiper	3	6	10	0	0	1	0	10	6	0
Baird's Sandpiper	3	11	0	11	13	4	2	2	3	22
Pectoral Sandpiper	47	63	15	4	49	15	1	2	10	7
Purple Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dunlin	0	4	0	2	0	0	6	1* (hyb?)	1	0
Stilt Sandpiper	0	2	1	0	4	0	0	1	0	0
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Short-billed Dowitcher	8	22	29	0	38	12	3	2	0	0
Long-billed Dowitcher	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Common Snipe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
American Woodcock	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wilson's Phalarope	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red-necked Phalarope	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Red Phalarope	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unidentified	18	9	9	5	0	12	10	0	0	0
Total	1500	1491	1569	788	1537	1090	1197	552	736	546



www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org

November – December Calendar

Buffalo-Niagara Regions Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

Nov. 21: Sun. Niagara River trip with Rochester Birding Association, for gulls and waterfowl. Leaders: RBA Bob Spahn (585-671-5690 or RSPAHN@prodigy.net).

Dec. 8: Buffalo Ornithological Society Annual Holiday Celebration at 7:00 PM in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Science Museum.

Dec. 18: Sat. St. Bonaventure CBC. Compiler: Regina M. VanScoy (716 - 925-7109 or vanscoy716@hughes.net).

Dec. 18: Sat. Wilson-Lake Plains CBC. Compiler: Garner Light (491-4408) or garnerlight@hotmail.com).

Dec. 18: Sat. 7:30 AM. Beaver Meadow CBC. Compiler: Chuck Bartlett. (bartlett@buffaloaudubon or 716-754-7414) or call Jackie at Beaver Meadow (585-457-3228).

Dec. 19: Sun. BOS Buffalo, NY Christmas Count. Compiler: David Gordon (716-390-1429, dgordonphoto@yahoo.com).

Dec. 19: Sun. St. Catharines CBC. Compiler: Marcie Jacklin (mjacklin@brocku.ca or 905-871-2577).

Dec. 19: Sun. Jamestown CBC. Compiler: Bill Seleen (wseleen@stny.rr.com or 716-664-4204).

Dec. 27: Mon. Niagara Falls ON-NY CBC. Contact Willie D'Anna (751-3637 or dannapotter@roadrunner.com) to work on the NY side. Contact Kayo Roy (905-892-4433 or kayoroy@niagara.com) to work on the Canadian side. All payments and data go to the compiler, Kayo Roy, 13 Kinsman Court, Fonthill, Ontario, Canada L0S 1E3.

Dec. 28: Tues. Oak Orchard Count. Compiler: Celeste Morien (tcmorien@gmail.com) 585-721-8202.

Jan 2: Sun. Port Colborne CBC. Meet at McDonald's restaurant in Port Colborne at the corner of Highway 3 and Highway 58 at 8 AM. Compiler: Drew Campbell (drew.campbell@gm.com, drewcampbell@roadrunner.com, home phone- 716-668-0759, Cell Phone- 586-441-8796).

Jan. 2: Sun. Hamburg - East Aurora CBC. Compiler: Tom O'Donnell (284-5569 or tmodonnell@roadrunner.com).

Jan. 2, Sun. Dunkirk-Fredonia CBC. Compiler: Joanne Goetz, goetz@netsync.net or 716-673-1627 and Jeanine Smith, jesmith@netsync.net or 716-672-2235.

August Shorebird Field Trip

Bill Watson

Sunday, August 29th was a gloriously beautiful day with a deep blue sky without a cloud or even an airplane vapor trail in the sky. Five birders reported at 7:00 AM at Vermont and Busti near the

Peace Bridge for the Canadian shoreline of Lake Erie for shorebirds. Dick Farber and his wife came all the way from Pennsylvania, by way of Chautauqua County for this enjoyable field trip. After picking up Lori Dunn at the Tim Horton's in Fort Erie, we proceeded to Morgan's Point where we observed Killdeer, three Turkey Vultures, two Red-breasted Mergansers, and about 20 Bonaparte's Gulls. Then under the more than capable leadership of Doug Happ we proceeded to Rock Point Provincial Park where we observed several Spotted Sandpipers, 16 Least Sandpipers, twelve Semipalmated Sandpipers, two Lesser Yellowlegs, six Semipalmated Plovers, eight Sanderlings, and the best bird of the day, a RED KNOT. We also had a weakly singing Warbling Vireo, Caspian Tern, Common Tern at Rock Point and about 700 Double-crested Cormorants on Mohawk Island.

It was nice to see a Red Knot as most of us are worried about the alarming decline in numbers of this species in the past 25 years. The major overriding threat has been human-caused decimation of horseshoe crab egg food supply at the key Delaware Bay staging area for the entire population of the *rufa* subspecies. The annual harvest of horseshoe crabs (to be used for bait) along the Atlantic Coast increased from about 800,000 pounds in 1993 to 6.38 million pounds in 1998 while towing surveys of horseshoe crab numbers in Delaware Bay went from an average of 6.8 crabs per tow in 1991 to 0.2 crabs per tow in 2002. In recent years an increasingly large proportion of the population passing through Delaware Bay has not been able to find enough horseshoe crab eggs to increase weight sufficiently for breeding and survival. This has resulted in a 37% decrease in adult survival rates and is thought to account for the dramatic declines in the population of the *rufa* subspecies. One has to wonder if this situation on the east coast of the United States is analogous to the situation at Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant, where minnows are being removed for bait every year and waterfowl species in particular seem to be declining.

Along Rhymer Road there were nine foraging Caspian Terns, two Great Egrets, Green Heron, Belted Kingfisher, and many Great Blue Herons. At Mozaic Ponds George had opened the gates for us before he went to church, and the lagoon on the north side of Rhymer Road had hundreds of Mallard Ducks. Among the Mallards we found about twenty Green-winged Teal, five Blue-winged Teal, two American Wigeon, and a Northern Shoveler. At the Feeder Road Sod Farm there were 18 Horned Larks and at the Poth Road Turf Farms there were 23 Horned Larks. Although some of us were disappointed that we did not see the hoped for Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, and American Golden and Black-bellied Plovers, everyone has a good time enjoying good conversation, good food, good company, and a beautiful day. We all thanked Doug Happ for leading this pleasurable field trip.

The Prothonotary

BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 76, No. 10 October 2010

THE MONTH: September

Tim Baird

September 2010 might be called the 'Goldilocks' of Septembers--no superlatives, with near average temperature and rainfall. It was just right, or just what might be expected for the end of summer and the beginning of autumn.

The normal mean temperature for September is 62.1° F and the mean for September 2010 exceeded that by 1.1° F. Rainfall total was 0.99 inches below the 3.84 inch normal; a little warmer and a little dryer than usual for September. Sunshine was 10% less than normal. Temperature measurements of Lake Erie reached a high of 75° F on the 3rd, then fell to 63° F by month's end.

A cool air mass from the northwest came in on the 4th following the passage of Hurricane Earl off the east coast. The area received lake effect rain downwind of Lakes Erie and Ontario on the 4th and 5th. Perhaps related to this northwesterly air flow, Wheeler found five Scaup at the Erie Basin that displayed characteristics of Greater Scaup making their appearance a few days early for this species in the fall, and Parasitic Jaegers were identified by D'Anna on the 5th and 8th over Lake Ontario at Wilson.

The juvenile Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in Dunkirk on September 20th reported and verified by Lazarczyk was almost certainly the same bird reported by Wheeler for September 6th and seen at that location in early August. Agitated American Crows alerted Baird to a juvenile Northern Goshawk in Allegany State Park on September 7th. While watching the hawk a large owl (probable Great Horned Owl) flew out of a hemlock nearby and was pursued by the goshawk. It's possible that the goshawk, like the birder, was attracted to the location by the commotion from the crows in response to the owl's presence. A late Eastern Kingbird was verified and photographed by Beattie and Dart at the Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant (Batavia WWTP) on the 26th.

requiring verification reports for dates or unusual species.

The only report for Common Nighthawk came from Mitchell where three birds were seen in Alden on the 13th. One hundred Chimney Swifts observed by Newton at Tifft Nature Preserve on the 12th and 70 seen by Fox



(Top) Connecticut Warbler and (Bottom) Chestnut-sided Warbler (Female, Hatch Year) photographed by Chris Newton at Tifft Nature Preserve on September 10th

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Except for the species mentioned, September lacked observations

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at Batavia WWTP on the 4th are notable to this writer as Chimney Swifts are very scarce in the interior of the southern tier after August.

Black Duck numbers are in decline, and this is exemplified by a September maximum of 20 birds at the Batavia WWTP noted by Fox when compared to several hundred Mallards he found at the same location this month. Batavia WWTP continues to be a waterfowl magnet attracting many species. Ruddy Duck and Eared Grebe continue to be well represented there. Notable, but perhaps greeted with less enthusiasm than some waterfowl congregations might engender,

reveal a good showing for this species. Although they continue to expand their range, all the Common Raven reports this month came from their stronghold on the Allegheny Plateau.

The region had a good warbler migration as is expected for September. Newton's record of a Connecticut Warbler at Tift NP on the 10th is a good find. Tennessee, Cape May, and Bay-breasted Warbler population changes have been linked to outbreaks of spruce budworms in coniferous forests to our north. Over the last 15 years, B.O.S. records show observations of these three species have been regular, and numbers have been fairly consistent and similar for the three. September records prior the mid 1990's show a scattered and irregular occurrence of these three warbler species. Perhaps these earlier reports are more a reflection of the number of birders in the field rather than the number of birds.

Information from Natural Resources Canada (www.nrcan.gc.ca) indicates that the budworm populations cycle about every 35-40 years and outbreaks last up to ten years. According to the NRC website, Canada experienced budworm increases from 1998 to 2003 and then a decline to low levels. During 2006-2007 Ontario experienced a small outbreak that has apparently subsided. Although there may be a relationship, it is not an easy conclusion to arrive at a connection between our sightings of the 'budworm warblers' and the occurrence of spruce budworm outbreaks in Canada.

The B.O.S. database includes a surprising 311 Bay-breasted Warblers from three dates in September 1975 (18th, 23rd, and 24th) recorded as tower kills by Clark, Schaffner, Andrie and others. Such information hints that a significant flyover can occur and goes undetected by ground observation.

Nothing this month is a prelude for what we can expect for our fall/winter season. No doubt patience is in order as we wait for the new season. David Suggs kindly provided information from the B.O.S. database. Mike Morgante provided helpful suggestions that added to the clarity and accuracy of this report.

are the hundreds of Double-crested Cormorants at Buffalo Harbor seen by Watson.

September's raptors were mostly single birds but included a nice mix of species. A single Bald Eagle report came from Yoerg and Henderson who found an adult at the Batavia WWTP at the end of the month. Was this eagle surveying the waterfowl for a meal? This single report is a low number for September Bald Eagles. Over the last 10 years of *Noteworthy Records* the September average is over 9 Bald Eagles reported per month (highest 2006 with 28 birds). The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation report on Bald Eagles (*New York State Bald Eagle Report 2009*) shows a continuing increase in nesting eagles through 2009. Of interest, is that 11% of Bald Eagle mortality from known causes in 2009 is due to other eagles. Might the continued growth of our nesting eagle population be leading to intraspecific conflicts over good breeding territories?

Ontario provided many of the shorebird species this month. During a September 2nd trip to Canada, Yoerg found 90 Black-bellied Plovers at Welland and 68 American Golden-Plovers at Dunnville. Killdeer made good showings including 80 reported in Elba on the 14th by Mitchell and the same number in Alabama on the 26th observed by Morgante. Observations of Common Terns noted by D'Anna, Pawlicki, Watson, and Yoerg



Red-necked Phalarope photographed by Joe Mitchell at Batavia WWTP on September 27th

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (8th Edition - Revised 2009) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for the species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

* = First record for the year.

F - First record for the migration.

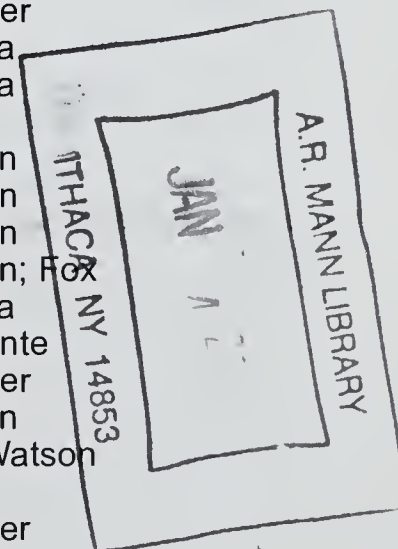
L - Last record for the migration.

(f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of nestling or fledgling.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PV - Indicates Previously Documented

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Ave., Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Wood Duck	8	23	Tifft NP	Watson
"	19	58	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Gadwall	12, 19	4, 3	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	24	8	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki, Watson
"	25	15	Iroquois NWR	Sucy, Lawrence
American Wigeon	4, 27	10, 30	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	25	20	Iroquois NWR	Sucy, Lawrence
American Black Duck	26; 27	7; 20	Batavia WWTP	Dart, Beattie; Fox
Mallard	12, 19	739, 314	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Blue-winged Teal	12	42	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Northern Shoveler	2	1	LaSalle Pk, Bflo.	Watson
"	4; 14; 19	60; 60; 75	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Watson; Fox
Northern Pintail	5	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	25	35	Fort Niagara SP	Wheeler
"	27	15	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell
Green-winged Teal	4, 12	43, 37	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	25	50	Iroquois NWR	Sucy, Lawrence
Redhead	17F	2	LaSalle Pk, Bflo.	Watson
"	26; 27	1	Batavia WWTP	Dart, Beattie; Mitchell
Ring-necked Duck	19F ;26	6; 2	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Dart, Beattie
Greater Scaup	25F	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Lesser Scaup	12F	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Scaup species	4	5	Buffalo Harbor	Wheeler
Surf Scoter	25F	1	Wilson	D'Anna
White-winged Scoter	25	6	Wilson	D'Anna
Bufflehead	4	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Common Merganser	9	58	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
"	14	9	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Red-br. Merganser	9	2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
Ruddy Duck	14; 19	27; 35	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Fox
Common Loon	5	4	Wilson	D'Anna
"	5, 29	1, 2	Hamburg Beach	Morgante
"	25	4	Fort Niagara SP	Wheeler
Pied-billed Grebe	7	55	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Eared Grebe	4, 12; 14	1, 2; 2	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Watson
Horned Grebe	19F	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	29	2	Sheridan	Wheeler
D.-crested Cormorant	1	711	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	2, 17	669, 856	Buffalo Harbor	Watson
"	4, 12	58, 69	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	16	18	Chautauqua L.	Berry
Least Bittern	11	1	Tifft NP	Mitchell
Great Egret	2, 14	26, 22	Strawberry I.	Watson
"	4; 26	21; 7	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Dart, Beattie
"	7; 25	<u>151</u> ; 118	Iroquois NWR	Watson; Sucy, Lawrence
"	8; 10	5; 6	Tifft NP	Watson; Newton
"	23; 26	2; 2	Alexander	Dart; Dart, Beattie
Blk.-cr. Night-Heron	13	1	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell
Yel.-cr. Night-Heron	6, 20	1 juv	Dunkirk Harbor	Lazarczyk



<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Osprey	2	1	Mosaic Ponds (Ont)	Yoerg
"	14	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	21	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	23	1	Tift NP	Lewis
"	26	1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	27	1	Pomfret	Mosher
Bald Eagle	30	1 ad	Batavia WWTP	Yoerg, Henderson
Northern Harrier	5	2	Alfred	Brooks
"	7	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	7	1	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	26	1	Alabama	Morgante
Northern Goshawk	7	1	Allegany SP	Baird
Red-shouldered Hawk	19	1	Carroll	Berry
"	24	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	26	1	Orchard Park	Morgante
"	26	1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	29	3	Ashford	J. Rosenberg
Broad-winged Hawk	1	1	Alden	Mitchell
"	10	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Merlin	9	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
"	23	1	Salamanca	Baird
"	23	1	Alden	Mitchell
Peregrine Falcon	2	1 imm	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg
"	25; 29	1; 1	Fort Niagara SP	Wheeler; Yoerg
"	29	1	S. Grand I. Bridge	Landon
Virginia Rail	14	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Sora	30	1	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
Common Moorhen	26	2	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
American Coot	19	3	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Black-bellied Plover	2	92	Welland (Ont)	Yoerg
"	2, 8	68, 9	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg
"	8	8	Wainfleet (Ont)	Yoerg
"	9	14	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson
"	9	2	Long Beach CA (Ont)	Watson
Amer. Golden-Plover	2	1	Long Beach CA (Ont)	Yoerg
"	2	8	Welland (Ont)	Yoerg
"	2, 8	7, 30	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg
"	9	9	Wainfleet (Ont)	Yoerg
"	19	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Killdeer	9	50	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson
"	14	80	Elba	Mitchell
"	26	80	Alabama	Morgante
Solitary Sandpiper	26	2	Batavia WWTP	Dart, Beattie
"	30	1	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
Greater Yellowlegs	4; 26	24; 17	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Dart, Beattie
Lesser Yellowlegs	7	23	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	14; 19	31; 39	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Fox
Ruddy Turnstone	2	1	LaSalle Pk, Bflo.	Watson
"	2, 8	2 - 3, 1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg
"	24	5	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
Sanderling	2, 8	10, 10	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg
"	2, 17	1, 1	LaSalle Pk, Bflo.	Watson
"	5	4	Hamburg Beach	Morgante
"	8	1	Long Beach CA (Ont)	Yoerg
"	12, 19	1, 1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	23	12	Dunkirk Harbor	Wheeler
Semipalm. Sand.	12	13	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Least Sandpiper	12; 14	23; 18	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Watson
White-r. Sandpiper	8	3	Long Beach CA (Ont)	Yoerg
Baird's Sandpiper	2	1	Long Beach CA (Ont)	Yoerg
"	2, 8	4, 3	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg
"	4; 26	1; 1	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Dart, Beattie
Pectoral Sandpiper	2	1	Long Beach CA (Ont)	Yoerg
"	2	1	Welland (Ont)	Yoerg
"	2	1	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg
"	14; 26	16; 2	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Dart, Beattie

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Dunlin	26	1	Batavia WWTP	Dart, Beattie
"	29	1	Mouth of Catt. Creek	Wheeler
Stilt Sandpiper	12	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Buff-br. Sandpiper	8; 9	7; 5	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg; Watson
Dowitcher species	29	2	Fort Niagara SP	Yoerg
Wilson's Snipe	30	2	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
Red-neck. Phalarope	27	2	Batavia WWTP	Dart, Beattie
Lesser Black-b. Gull	19, 26	3 ad, 4	Goat I.	Wheeler
"	23	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Wheeler
"	29	1	Mouth of Catt. Creek	Wheeler
Caspian Tern	9	6	Beaver I. SP	Hess
"	11	5	Buffalo Harbor	Morgante
"	12	2	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	16	1	Chautauqua L.	Berry
"	25	1	Fort Niagara SP	Wheeler
Black Tern	12	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	25; 26	2; 1	Fort Niagara SP	Wheeler; Pawlicki, Wheeler
Common Tern	2	80	Long Beach CA (Ont)	Yoerg
"	4; 26	178; 200	Fort Niagara SP	Watson; Pawlicki et al
"	5, 8	170, 58	Wilson	D'Anna
"	19	3	Batavia WWTP	Fox
* Parasitic Jaeger	<u>5F, 8</u>	1 ad, 1 juv	Wilson	D'Anna
"	25; 26	1; 5	Fort Niagara SP	Wheeler; Pawlicki et al
Jaeger species	29	3	Fort Niagara SP	Yoerg
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	17	1	Tifft NP	Watson
Common Nighthawk	13	3	Alden	Mitchell
Chimney Swift	4	70	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	12	100	Tifft NP	Newton
"	18	2	Williamsville	Salembier
Ruby-t. Hummingbird	23	1	Ashford	J. Rosenberg
"	25	1	Iroquois NWR	Lawrence et al
Red-headed Wdpkr.	9; 10	1; 1 juv	Tifft NP	Sharon; Newton
"	17	1 ad + 2 yg	Lakeside Beach SP	S&T O'Donnell
Red-bellied Wdpkr.	26	1	Poland	Berry
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	17	2	Tifft NP	Watson
"	19	1	Carroll	Berry
"	25	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Olive-s. Flycatcher	5F	1	Iroquois NWR	R&D DeLeon
"	13	1	Pomfret	Mosher
Eastern Wood-Pewee	23	1	Alexander	Dart
"	25	1	Iroquois NWR	Sucy et al
Yellow-b. Flycatcher	9	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	10	1	Holland	Newton
"	10, 12	1, 2	Tifft NP	Newton
"	12	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	14	1	Elba	Mitchell
"	15	1	Basom	Mitchell
Least Flycatcher	6	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	10	1	Tifft NP	Newton
"	16	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Empidonax species	13	1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	15	1	Elba	Mitchell
Gr. Cr. Flycatcher	11L	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	D'Anna
Eastern Kingbird	7	3	Wilson	D'Anna
"	<u>26L</u>	1	Batavia WWTP	Dart, Beattie
Yellow-thr. Vireo	15L	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Blue-headed Vireo	10F	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter
"	10F	1	Tifft NP	Newton
Warbling Vireo	10	2	Tifft NP	D'Anna
"	17L	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Philadelphia Vireo	5, 20	1, 1	Pomfret	Mosher
"	6	2	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	D'Anna, Potter
"	9	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
"	10; 17	2; 2	Tifft NP	Newton; Watson
"	13; 19	1; 1	Allegany SP	Baird; Baird et al
"	16	1	Williamsville	Salembier

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Common Raven	7, 19	1, 2	Alfred	Brooks
"	13, 26	1, 1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	23	1	Ellicottville	Baird
"	26	2	Poland	Berry
Horned Lark	9	28	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson
Purple Martin	19L	2	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Tree Swallow	4; 26	500; 160	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Dart, Beattie
"	26	50	Iroquois NWR	Morgante
N. Rough-w. Swallow	4, 19	65, 10	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	25	2	Iroquois NWR	Sucy et al
Bank Swallow	8	2	Wilson	D'Anna
"	19L	25	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Barn Swallow	19	75	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Cliff Swallow	8	2	Wilson	D'Anna
"	8	1	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg
"	13; 19L	1; 1	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell; Fox
Carolina Wren	7	1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	17	2	Tifft NP	Watson
"	17	1	Batavia	Dart
Winter Wren	5F, 27	2, 1	Tifft NP	Newton
"	15	1	Wilson	Potter
"	26	3	Poland	Berry
"	27	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Golden-cr. Kinglet	15F	1	Wilson	Potter
"	22	8	Williamsville	Salembier
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	11F	2	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	D'Anna
"	12	1	Tifft NP	Newton
Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	8	1	Tifft NP	Watson, Schlacter
Veery	20	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	20, 27	1, 1	Tifft NP	Newton
Gray-cheeked Thrush	10F	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	15	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
Swainson's Thrush	5F, 27	3, 5	Tifft NP	Newton
"	6	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	26	8	Orchard Park (flyover)	Morgante
"	29	2	Williamsville	Salembier
Hermit Thrush	16F	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	16F	1	Wilson	Potter
Wood Thrush	19	1	Wilson	Potter
"	23	1	Darien Lakes SP	Mitchell
Brown Thrasher	10	1	Wilson-Tusc. SP	Potter
"	11	2	Tifft NP	Mitchell
"	19	2	Allegany SP	Baird et al
"	19	1	Woodchuck Hill	Berry
Northern Mockingbird	1	1	Batavia	Beattie
"	3	1	Tonawanda	Watson
"	10	1 juv	Tifft NP	Newton
American Pipit	26F	30	Alabama	Morgante
Blue-winged Warbler	10	1	Tifft NP	Newton
"	12L	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Tennessee Warbler	10, 27	4, 4	Tifft NP	Newton
"	13, 20	2, 1	Allegany SP	Baird
Orange-cr. Warbler	11F	1	Goat I.	Potter
"	21	1	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell
"	26	1	Amherst	Pawlicki
"	26	4	Poland	Berry
Nashville Warbler	10, 27	3, 3	Tifft NP	Newton
"	28, 29	1, 1	Wethersfield	Junkin
Northern Parula	9	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
"	10	1	Tifft NP	Newton
"	11	1	Goat I.	Potter et al
Yellow Warbler	8; 12L	1; 2	Tifft NP	Watson et al; Newton
"	9	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	11	1	Goat I.	Potter et al
Chestnut-s. Warbler	23	1	Wethersfield	Junkin
Magnolia Warbler	5; 8	6; 10	Tifft NP	Newton; Watson
"	23	4	Wethersfield	Junkin

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Cape May Warbler	5	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	11	3	Goat I.	Potter et al
"	15	1	Basom	Mitchell
"	19; 20	2; 1	Allegany SP	Baird et al; Baird
"	25, 29	1, 1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	26	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
"	29	1	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell
Yellow-r. Warbler	11	3	Goat I.	Potter et al
Bl.-thr. Green Warb.	5, 10	1, 10	Tifft NP	Newton
"	29	1	Wethersfield	Junkin
Blackburnian Warbler	10, 27	3, 2	Tifft NP	Newton
Pine Warbler	5F	1	Chautauqua Lake	Hoover
"	21	1	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell
Prairie Warbler	1L	1	Ashford	J. Rosenburg
Palm Warbler	10F, 20	1, 1	Tifft NP	Newton
"	11	1	Goat I.	Potter et al
Bay-breasted Warbler	5F	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	5F	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter
"	6; 27	1; 8	Tifft NP	Watson; Newton
Blackpoll Warbler	20	5	Tifft NP	Newton
"	26	1	Pomfret	Mosher
Black-&-White Warb	19	1	Allegany SP	Baird et al
American Redstart	8, 17	15, 9	Tifft NP	Watson
Ovenbird	6; 17	1; 1	Tifft NP	Watson; Sharon
"	23	1	Wethersfield	Junkin
"	26	1	Poland	Berry
"	27	1	Oak Orchard Marine SP	D'Anna
Northern Waterthrush	8	1	Williamsville	Salembier
* Connecticut Warbler	10F	1	Tifft NP	Newton
Mourning Warbler	9	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
"	19L	1	Delaware Park, Bflo.	Gordon
Hooded Warbler	6	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	19	2	Allegany SP	Baird et al
"	27	1	Yates	D'Anna
Wilson's Warbler	5, 12; 17	1, 2; 2	Tifft NP	Newton; Sharon
"	26	1	Pomfret	Mosher
Canada Warbler	6	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	9	2	Tifft NP	Sharon
Lincoln's Sparrow	11F	2	Tifft NP	Mitchell
"	20, 23	2, 1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	26	1	Iroquois NWR	Morgante
"	26	1	Amherst	Pawlicki
White-thr. Sparrow	10F	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	12; 17	3; 4	Tifft NP	Newton; Watson
White-cr. Sparrow	19F	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	20	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
Dark-eyed Junco	16F	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	16F	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
Scarlet Tanager	25	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	26	1	Delaware Pk, Bflo.	Pawlicki, Wheeler
Rose-br. Grosbeak	23	1	Alexander	Dart
"	26	1	Alabama	Morgante
"	26	1	Poland	Berry
Rusty Blackbird	19F	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Baltimore Oriole	6	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter, D'Anna
"	8, 11L	3, 1	Williamsville	Salembier
Species, subspecies and named hybrids previously recorded:				269
New species, subspecies, and named hybrids recorded this month:				002
Total for the year 2010 (to date):				<u>271</u>

Statisticians' Note: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please advise us of any errors in the Noteworthy Records.



www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org

December – February Calendar & Annoucements

Buffalo-Niagara Regions Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

Dec. 18: Sat. St. Bonaventure CBC. Compiler: Regina M. VanScoy (716 - 925-7109 or vanscoy716@hughes.net).

Dec. 18: Sat. Wilson-Lake Plains CBC. Compiler: Garner Light (491-4408) or garnerlight@hotmail.com).

Dec. 18: Sat. 7:30 AM. Beaver Meadow CBC. Compiler: Chuck Bartlett. (bartlett@buffaloaudubon or 716-754-7414) or call Jackie at Beaver Meadow (585-457-3228)

Dec. 19: Sun. BOS Buffalo, NY Christmas Count. Compiler: David Gordon (716-390-1429, dgordonphoto@yahoo.com).

Dec. 19: Sun. St. Catharines CBC. Compiler: Marcie Jacklin (mjacklin@brocku.ca or 905-871-2577).

Dec.19: Sun. Jamestown CBC. Compiler: Bill Seleen (wseleen@stny.rr.com or 716-664-4204).

Dec. 27: Mon. Niagara Falls ON-NY CBC. Contact Willie D'Anna (751-3637 or dannapotter@roadrunner.com) to work on the NY side. Contact Kayo Roy (905-892-4433 or kayoroy@niagara.com) to work on the Canadian side. All payments and data go to the compiler, Kayo Roy, 13 Kinsman Court, Fonthill, Ontario, Canada L0S 1E3

Dec. 28: Tues. Oak Orchard Count. Compiler: Celeste Morien (tcmorien@gmail.com) 585-721-8202

Jan 2: Sun. Port Colborne CBC. Meet at McDonald's restaurant in Port Colborne at the corner of Highway 3 and Highway 58 at 8 AM. Compiler: Drew Campbell (drew.campbell@gm.com, drewcampbell@roadrunner.com, home phone- 716-668-0759, Cell Phone- 586-441-8796)

Jan. 2: Sun. Hamburg - East Aurora CBC. Compiler: Tom O'Donnell (284-5569 or tmodonnell@roadrunner.com)

Jan. 2, Sun. Dunkirk-Fredonia CBC. Compiler: Joanne Goetz, goetz@netsync.net or 716-673-1627 and Jeanine Smith, jesmith@netsync.net or 716-672-2235.

Jan. 12: BOS Annual Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Science Museum. Marcie Jacklin will discuss the October Count and Holly Sweeny will discuss the April Count.

Jan. 16: Sun. The New York State DEC January Waterfowl Count and mid-winter Bald Eagle Survey. The count period is Jan. 15-23, counters are urged to use the target date of Sun., Jan.16, weather permitting. Compiler: Jim Landau 941-3869 or landaujr@gmail.com

Feb. 9: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Science Museum. John Volpe will discuss "Native American Interpretations Of Birds."

Jan. 31: 2011 Membership Dues Notice (see below & attached flyer). Individual (\$20) and Family (\$25) Memberships. Dues are payable in U.S. Funds to BOS. Please respond by January 31, 2011 to: Karen Landau, Membership Chair 9195 State Road Colden, NY 14033-9626

We note with sadness the passing of long-time BOS member William (Bill) Bogacki. Bill was a long-time Tifft supporter, Friends of Tifft board member and avid birder. Bill Bogacki died early December 16th.

Buffalo Ornithological Society

DUES NOTICE (1/1/11-12/31/11)

Membership levels:

- _____ \$ 20.00 BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE (Individual) The ever present worker and backbone of the society.
_____ \$ 25.00 AMERICAN CROW (Family-2 members same address) You never see just one.

For those who want to give more:

- _____ \$ 50.00 WHITE-THROATED SPARROW Always scratching for a little more.
_____ \$ 75.00 WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH One that has put something aside for the future.
_____ \$100.00 WILD TURKEY A large nest of eggs to give from.
_____ \$250.00 GREAT HORNED OWL Able to cough up a little more.
_____ \$500.00 BALD EAGLE Our national symbol, the top of the raptor world.

CONTRIBUTION TO AXTELL/McVEY/WENDLING FUND... \$ _____
(provides funding for special research grants and projects)

Dues are payable in U.S. Funds to **BOS**. Please respond by **January 31, 2011** to:

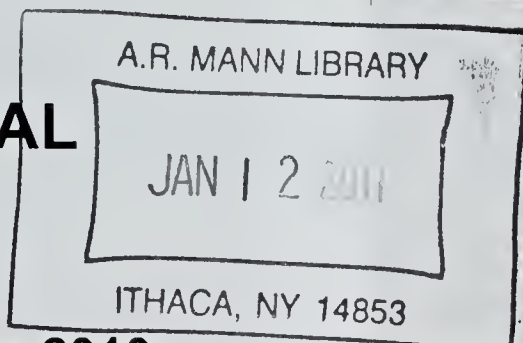
Karen Landau, Membership Chair
9195 State Road
Colden, NY 14033-9626

NAME _____ Add this phone number: _____
ADDRESS _____ to the BOS Rare Bird Telephone Hotline
CITY/STATE/ZIP _____
E-mail _____
Wish to receive *Prothonotary* via email yes___no___

PLEASE CHECK IF YOU WISH TO DROP___MEMBERSHIP

The Prothonotary

BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Volume 76, No. 11 November 2010

THE MONTH: October

Bill Watson

The Weather: It was a tranquil October with little deviation from normal. The month's average temperature was 50.9 °F (only 0.2 above average). The first three weeks were cool, warming from the 23rd to 28th. The warmer days coincided with an influx of Cattle Egrets (Royalton, 24th; Alexander, 29th; New York and Ontario) and a "massive Cave Swallow movement" on the 28th, reported by Ron Ridout at Long Point, Ontario. On the 26th the temperature reached 76 °F, only one degree shy of the record for that date. It was the eighth consecutive month with above average temperature, giving us our third longest growing season in history (214 days) and our second longest period without measurable snow (245 days). Precipitation was 3.06 inches, 0.13 below normal. Strong SW winds gusting to 51 mph occurred on the 28th. Total possible sunshine was average, 46%.

Early arrivals: Cackling Geese were reported by Willie D'Anna (one) on October 9th along Route 18 west of Countyline Road in the Town of Somerset and Jim Landau (four) in Yorkshire on the October 10th Count. These are the sixth and seventh earliest records for this species. It has been recorded for the 2007, 2009 and 2010 October counts.

A Tundra Swan was reported by Jim Landau at Bird Swamp, Route 242 in Machias on the October 10th Count. This species occasionally over-summers making early fall records difficult to judge. A swan reported from September 6, 1952 was believed to be a summering bird. An individual reported September 25, 1940 by Beardslee at Niagara Falls and eight reported October 1, 1951 at Lakewood are likely the earliest fall migrants on record.

An Iceland Gull was reported by Jim Pawlicki & David Wheeler on October 29th upstream of Three

Sisters Islands at Goat Island. David Wheeler wrote: "An adult white-winged gull with limited light grayish wingtip marks confirming the expected

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(Top) Thayer's Gull (THGU) with Herring (HERG) & Ring-billed (RBGU) Gulls. (Middle & Bottom) California Gull (CAGU). All photographed by Willie D'Anna at Goat I. on October 31st.

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Kumlein's Iceland Gull." It was "smaller than Herring" [Gull] "with obvious smaller bill and rounded head." The only earlier fall records in our present territory are a second year Iceland Gull by Rew and Buck at Dunkirk Harbor on October 1, 1982 and one October 20, 1956 at Niagara Falls, Ontario by Nathan and Schaffner.

A rare California Gull was reported by Jim Pawlicki and David Wheeler on the 29th and again by Willie D'Anna on the 31st upstream of Three Sisters Islands at Goat Island in Niagara Falls. Last October an individual was found here on the 7th.

Late Departures: Dave Wheeler stalked a "Small brown peep

sandpiper with dull yellow legs" for a week in the Elba Mucklands. He wrote a verification report for the Least Sandpiper sighting on the 24th. There are only two later records for this species, October 31, 1959, Andrie and Thill at Erie Beach and November 20, 2002, Sherony at Batavia WWTP.

On the October Count, Mike Galas and Ron Hacker spotted three Caspian Terns flying "near a large group of Ring-billed Gulls" at Three Sisters Island. In his report Mike described the large reddish orange bill, the black cap, the forked tail, and that the size was similar to the Ring-billed Gulls. The only later fall Caspian Tern record was on the October 11th, 1970 Count.

A lingering Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was reported by Jim Landau on the October Count. Landau spotted the bird with an Eastern Phoebe "along railroad tracks approximately ¼ mile from the crossing of Canada Hill Road in West Valley, NY." The only later Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was a tower killed bird found by Art Clark on the B.O.S. October 11th, 1970 count. Clark, known for his study of migratory bird mortality at communication towers, has picked up over 23,000 birds of 112 species in the past 44 years at his study sites. On any kill date, any specimen that did not appear to be fresh was not included for that date: Art Clark (personal communication, December 23, 2010)



Dickcissel photographed in the Town of Porter by Chris Newton on October 24th.

A Veery was reported by Holly Sweeney in Sect. 4 at Golden Hill SP on the October Count. There are only three later records, each single birds and observed on October Counts: 16th, 1983; 13th, 1996; and 12th, 2003.

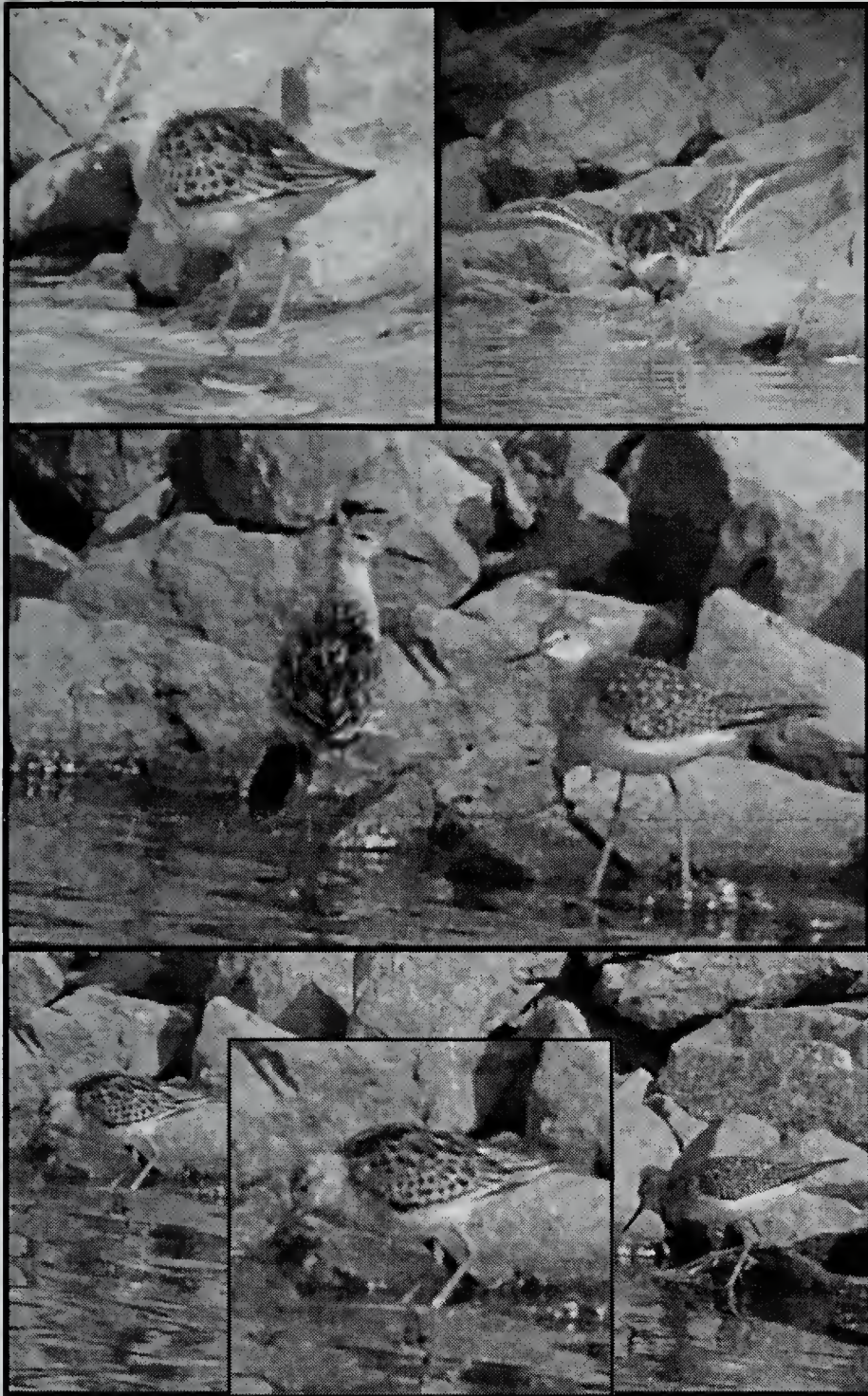
Rare Birds: A Dickcissel was reported by David Gordon on October 22nd in Porter (photograph above). The bird displayed "a yellow breast", "a wide yellow supercillium(sic)", no barring or streaks on breast or sides", and the "bill was thicker and heavier than the sparrows" that were nearby. This rare western visitor to the B.O.S. region has been recorded in all months of the year, most often in October & November with 17 October records.

While covering Times Beach Preserve on the October Count, Chuck Rosenberg recorded two American Avocets, these were likely the same birds photographed at the preserve by Jay Burney on the 9th (photo below). Many birders enjoyed watching these birds over the next two days. This is our third October record of American Avocet and our only October record of multiple birds.



American Avocet photographed at Time Beach NP by Jay Burney on October 9th.

On the 18th while birding at the Batavia WWTP Mark Schlacter and I observed an odd shorebird with three Lesser Yellowlegs. Although close in body length as the Lesser Yellowlegs feeding with it, Mark and I agree it was noticeably shorter. "It had yellow legs and feet. The bill was about a head diameter long, was slightly down turned, and had a little orangish near the base. It had a rufous cap. The rest of the head, neck, and breast were a tan light brown, except for the light gray diffuse eye line that started at the eye and went toward the back of the head and was similar in position to that of a winter plumage Red-necked Phalarope." At



Ruff photographed by Bill Watson at Batavia WWTP on October 18th. Middle and Bottom photographs includes a Lesser Yellowlegs for comparison. Bottom inset is enlargement of the Ruff.

first the small size suggested a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, but there were no chevrons or spotting on the flanks. The bird was finally identified as a juvenile Ruff. This species can be a difficult identification due to many variations in plumage and leg and foot color. The rule of thumb is to use size and shape. Ruffs average 11 inches in length (compared to the 10.5 inches of a Lesser Yellowlegs). They are a very heavy looking shorebird with a distinctive pot-bellied shape; however, this can also be tricky because of sexual dimorphism. Male ruffs are 11.4-12.6 inches in length and average 6.4 ounces in weight, while females (called Reeves) are 8.7-10.2 inches in length and average 3.9 ounces giving them a smaller and thinner look. In my opinion field and photographic evidence suggests the bird was a juvenile Reeve. There are 25 Ruff records in the B.O.S. archive. All are between April 16 and August 22, making this individual our latest fall record, only October record, only juvenile record and third female (Reeve) record.

Other rare birds seen this month are the Thayer's Gull found by Andy Guthrie and written up by Willie D'Anna. Part of D'Anna description read: "It was quickly recognizable as a Thayer's Gull candidate by its dark

eyes and black primary tips with very reduced black on the underside of the primaries. It was slightly smaller than the Herring Gulls but it seemed larger than the California Gull we had seen two hours earlier, with a blockier head. It also had a longish bill, relative to most Iceland Gulls (none to compare with) but shorter than that of the Herring Gulls (direct comparisons)." There were also two reports of Dowitcher species. On the count in Section 8, Doug Happ and Mike Zebehazy found a resting Dowitcher on "a small island in the water at the bottom of the quarry" west of Bridge Street and Ridgemount Road in the Town of Fort Erie. On the 27th David Wheeler found a dowitcher species at Kumpf Marsh at Iroquois NWR. Long-billed Dowitcher is more likely in October.

High Counts: The 262 Surf Scoters in Buffalo are the highest single location count in the B.O.S. archives. The 1325 Double-crested Cormorants in Buffalo are the third highest. The 20 Gray Catbirds in North Harmony are the third highest and a new high for October. Dave Junkin banded 28 N. Saw-whet Owls between the 9th and 31st. At Batavia WWTP fall Ruddy Duck numbers have rebounded to 1322 from 455 in 2005, 532 in 2006, 428 in 2007, 285 in 2008, and 317 in 2009, but still are below the highs of 2241 in 2003 and 1377 in 2001.

I would like to acknowledge the following sources for providing information in the writing of The Month.

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Cattle Egret photographed by Joe Mitchell in Royalton on October 24th.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (8th Edition - Revised 2009) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for the species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

* = First record for the year.

F - First record for the migration.

L - Last record for the migration.

(f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of nestling or fledgling.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PV - Indicates Previously Documented

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Ave., Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Snow Goose	25	1 blue	Alabama	Newton
"	28	2	Newfane	D'Anna
Brant	21	4	Grand I.	Lazarczyk, Gordon
Cackling Goose	<u>9F</u>	1	Somerset	D'Anna
"	25	13	Alabama	Newton
Mute Swan	24; 29	3	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Yoerg et al; Sharon
Tundra Swan	25	2	Alabama	Newton
"	30	4	LaSalle Pk, Bflo.	Morgante
"	30	1	Carlton	D'Anna (BOS)
Gadwall	1; 12	8; 12	Tifft NP	Newton; Wheeler
"	28; 31	21; 30	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell; Fox
"	30	50	LaSalle Pk, Bflo.	Morgante
American Wigeon	1, 4	8, 20	Tifft NP	Newton
"	2; 9	115; 72	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence; Fox
American Black Duck	2; 18	7; 18	Batavia WWTP	Beattie; Watson
"	2	3	LaSalle Pk, Bflo.	D'Anna
Blue-winged Teal	18	3	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Northern Shoveler	4; 17	6; 10	Tifft NP	Newton; Sharon
"	16; 18	216; 183	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Watson
Northern Pintail	1	25	Fort Niagara SP	Wheeler
"	9, 16	79, 63	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Green-winged Teal	18; 23	18; 59	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Fox
Canvasback	22	4	Youngstown	Newton
"	30	4	Somerset	D'Anna (BOS)
Redhead	2; 7	2; 3	LaSalle Pk, Bflo.	D'Anna; Watson
"	22	1	Youngstown	Newton
"	30	2	Somerset	D'Anna (BOS)
Ring-necked Duck	1; 23	10; 192	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell; Fox
"	6, 7	2	LaSalle Pk, Bflo.	Watson
"	8	12	North Harmony	Berry
Greater Scaup	2	4	LaSalle Pk, Bflo.	D'Anna
"	6, 7	30, 11	Buffalo	Watson
Lesser Scaup	16	16	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna et al
"	18; 31	25; 55	Batavia WWTP	Watson et al; Fox
Surf Scoter	1; 18	3; 1	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell; Watson et al
"	2	52	LaSalle Pk, Bflo.	D'Anna
"	6, 7	262, 122	Buffalo	Watson
"	16	17	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna
"	29	60	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
White-winged Scoter	7	5	Buffalo	Watson
"	16	183	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna et al
Scoter sp.	17	100	Fort Erie (Ont)	Morgante
Black Scoter	28	1	Hamburg Town Pk	Wheeler
"	29	1	Fort Niagara	Wheeler
Long-tailed Duck	16F	24	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna et al
Long-tailed Duck	28	25	Erie Basin Marina	Wheeler

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	31	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Bufflehead	17	5	Fort Erie (Ont)	Morgante
"	17; 18	1; 4	Batavia WWTP	Wheeler; Watson
"	30	20	Golden Hill SP	Watson, D'Anna (BOS)
Common Goldeneye	16	2	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna et al
"	26	14	Niagara Falls	Watson
Common Merganser	6	4	Buffalo	Watson
"	18	24	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Red-br. Merganser	15	1	Salamanca	Betrus
"	16	1	Mayville	Lenz
Ruddy Duck	4; 12	4; 1	Tifft NP	Newton; Wheeler
"	23, 31	1270, 1322	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Ruffed Grouse	5	1	RTPeterson Institute	Berry
Red-throated Loon	16; 27	2; 2	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna et al; Watson
Common Loon	3	1	Dayton	Mitchell
"	9	12	Fort Niagara SP	Wheeler
"	16; 27	175; 46	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna et al; Watson
Horned Grebe	13	75	Sheridan	Wheeler
"	16	25	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna et al
Red-necked Grebe	16	5	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna et al
Eared Grebe	19-31	1	Batavia WWTP	Newton; Junkin; Wheeler
D.-crested Cormorant	1	618	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	6	763	Buffalo	Watson
"	9	1325	Erie Basin Marina	Watson
"	24	20	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	30	500	LaSalle Pk, Bflo.	Morgante
Great Egret	1; 2	6; 1	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell; Lazarczyk et al
"	7	3	Strawberry I.	Watson
"	7	6	Tifft NP	Watson
"	9, 17	6, 3	Iroquois NWR	Wheeler
"	28	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
* Cattle Egret	24	1	Royalton	Mitchell, Ensminger et al
"	29	1	Alexander	Salvadore
Green Heron	9	1	Iroquois NWR	Wheeler
"	15L	1	Times Beach NP	Kauffman
Osprey	16	1	Grand I.	Lazarczyk
"	26	1	Depew	Morgante
Bald Eagle	16	1 ad	Belvidere	Brooks
"	17; 31	3; 6	Allegheny Reservoir	Baird
Northern Harrier	30	5	Somerset & Yates	D'Anna (BOS)
Red-shouldered Hawk	23	1	Alden	Coniglio
"	27	1	RTPeterson Institute	Berry
"	31	1	Orchard Park	Morgante
Rough-legged Hawk	27F	1	Golden Hill SP	Wheeler
"	30	3	Yates	D'Anna (BOS)
Golden Eagle	31	1	Allegany SP	Baird
Merlin	2	1	Fort Niagara SP	Landon
Peregrine Falcon	2	1	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence
"	6	1	West Seneca	Wheeler
"	21	1	N. Grand I. bridge	Landon
"	30	1	Bird I. Pier	Morgante
Common Moorhen	2	1	Batavia WWTP	Beattie
"	7; 12L	1	Tifft NP	Watson; Sharon
American Coot	2; 30	7; 15	LaSalle Pk, Bflo.	D'Anna; Morgante
"	18	200	Mayville	Lenz
"	23	25	Dunkirk Harbor	Berry
Black-bellied Plover	8	3	Buffalo Harbor	Wheeler
"	17	10	Jaeger Rocks (Ont)	Morgante
"	23	10	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell
"	28	1	Erie Basin Marina	Wheeler, Watson
Semipalmated Plover	17L	1	Crescent Beach (Ont)	Humann
Killdeer	27	74	Hartland	Watson
American Avocet	9	2	Times Beach NP	Burney

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	11	2	Times Beach NP	Watson et al
"	12	2	Times Beach NP	Wheeler et al
Greater Yellowlegs	18; 31	1; 2	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Schlacter; Fox
"	27	6	Iroquois NWR	Wheeler
Lesser Yellowlegs	11	4	Times Beach NP	Watson, Connare
"	17	1	Wilson	D'Anna et al
"	17; 24L	10; 1	Elba	Watson et al; Wheeler
Spotted Sandpiper	15	1	Times Beach NP	Kauffman
"	21L	1	Batavia WWTP	Ragan
Sanderling	1; 2	1	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell; Beattie
Least Sandpiper	17	1	Wilson	D'Anna et al
"	18; 19	2; 1	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Newton
"	<u>24L</u>	1	Elba	Wheeler
White-r. Sandpiper	17	4	Wilson	D'Anna et al
"	18; 24L	1; 1	Elba	Wheeler et al; Wheeler
Pectoral Sandpiper	17	1	Wilson	D'Anna et al
"	19	1	Batavia WWTP	Newton
"	23; 24	12; 9	Elba	Mitchell; Dart et al
Dunlin	18; 24	4; 6	Elba	Watson et al; Dart et al
"	25	15	Alabama	Newton
"	29	212	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki, Wheeler
"	30	138	Erie Basin Marina	Wheeler, Pawlicki
* <u>Ruff</u>	18	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson et al
<u>Dowitcher species</u>	27	1 - 2	Iroquois NWR	Wheeler
Wilson's Snipe	25	1	Alabama	Newton
American Woodcock	17	1	Alfred	Peterson
Phalarope species	30	1	Barker	Watson, S. O'Donnell
Bonaparte's Gull	28	400	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
"	29	3500	Fort Niagara SP	Wheeler, Pawlicki
"	29	300	Devils Hole SP	Wheeler
"	29	1000	Buffalo	Pawlicki
Little Gull	15F	1	Fort Niagara SP	Wheeler
"	28	2	Erie Basin Marina	Watson, Wheeler
"	29; 31	1; 1	Devils Hole SP	Pawlicki et al; Potter et al
* <u>California Gull</u>	29, 30	1	Goat I.	Pawlicki, Wheeler
"	31	1	Goat I.	D'Anna, Potter
Iceland Gull	<u>29F</u>	1	Goat I.	Wheeler, Pawlicki
Lesser Black-b. Gull	17	1 juv	Wilson	D'Anna et al
"	23	2	Elba	Mitchell
"	26; 31	4; 7	Goat I.	Wheeler et al; D'Anna et al
Common Tern	30	1	Erie Basin Marina	Pawlicki, Wheeler
Parasitic Jaeger	1, 15	1, 5	Fort Niagara SP	Wheeler
"	16	2	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna et al
"	28	7	Hamburg Town Pk	Wheeler
"	28	1	Erie Basin Marina	Wheeler
Jaeger species	28	1	Erie Basin Marina	Wheeler, Watson
Nor. Saw-whet Owl	9F - 31	28 banded	Wethersfield	D. Junkin
Red-headed Wdpr.	27	1	Hamburg	Iyoob
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	1	8	Tifft NP	Newton
Eastern Phoebe	24L	2	Wilson-Tusc. SP	Yoerg
Northern Shrike	26F	1	Tifft NP	Newton
Blue-headed Vireo	17	2	Alden	Mitchell
Red-eyed Vireo	4	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Common Raven	18	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	22	1	Alfred	Brooks
Tree Swallow	18; 31	130; 1	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Fox
Barn Swallow	23L	1	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell
Carolina Wren	1 - 31	1	Eden (f)	Andrle
"	4	1	Salamanca	Baird
"	11	2	Times Beach NP	Watson, Connare
"	13	1	Derby	Wheeler
"	31	1	Allegany SP	Baird
House Wren	1	2	Tifft NP	Sharon

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Marsh Wren	15	1	Times Beach NP	Kauffman
Golden-cr. Kinglet	1	50	Fort Niagara SP	Yonker
Gray-cheeked Thrush	1	1	Tifft NP	Newton
"	2	1	Wilson	Potter
"	9	1	Youngstown	Landon
Swainson's Thrush	1, 4	5, 2	Tifft NP	Newton
"	2	1	Tonawanda	Hess
"	9	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	16L	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Hermit Thrush	24	6	Tonawanda	Watson
"	24	6	Williamsville	Salembier
Wood Thrush	1	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
Gray Catbird	9	20	North Harmony	Berry
N. Mockingbird	1	1	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell
"	15	1	Times Beach NP	Kauffman
Brown Thrasher	1; 7	1; 1	Tifft NP	Sharon; Watson
American Pipit	2	6	Alexander	Dart
"	17; 23	18; 8	Batavia WWTP	Wheeler; Mitchell
"	22	22	Wilson	Newton
"	23	98	Porter	Watson
"	24	150	Shelby	Morien
"	24	150	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Tennessee Warbler	1; 9	2; 2	Tifft NP	Newton; Sharon
"	2	1	Goat I.	D'Anna
"	4	1	Salamanca	Baird
Orange-cr. Warbler	1	1	Pomfret	Mosher
"	1; 9	1; 2	Tifft NP	Newton; Sharon
"	2	1	Goat I.	D'Anna
"	11	1	Times Beach NP	Watson
"	13	1	Darien Lakes SP	Mitchell
"	24L	1	Tonawanda	Watson
Nashville Warbler	9	1	Fort Niagara SP	Wheeler
"	21	1	Goat I.	Wheeler
"	31L	1 banded	Wethersfield	D Junkin
Northern Parula	1L	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
Magnolia Warbler	7L	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
Cape May Warbler	12L	1	Bethany	Beattie
Bl.-thr. Blue Warbler	4	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter
"	9	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
Yellow-r. Warbler	2; 26	150; 20	Goat I.	D'Anna; Wheeler et al
"	27	2	Ward	Brooks
Bl.-thr. Green Warbler	1; 9	3; 1	Tifft NP	Sharon et al; Rubenstein
"	4	1	Alden	Mitchell
Palm Warbler	1; 9	5; 1	Tifft NP	Newton; Sharon
"	2	4	Goat I.	D'Anna
Bay-breasted Warbler	3	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	4; 9	1; 1	Tifft NP	Newton; Sharon
Blackpoll Warbler	9	1	North Harmony	Berry
"	21	1	Goat I.	Wheeler
"	29L	1 banded	Wethersfield	D Junkin
American Redstart	1	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
Eastern Towhee	4	1	Newfane	D'Anna
"	6 - 9, 12	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	19, 20	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	21	1	Alfred	Fasano
"	24	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Yoerg, Henderson
Amer. Tree Sparrow	16	1	Alden	Mitchell
"	20	1	Darien Lakes SP	Wheeler
Field Sparrow	12	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
"	19	2	Darien Lakes SP	Wheeler
"	23	1	Porter	Watson
"	24	1	Youngstown	Newton
Vesper Sparrow	19	1	Darien Lakes SP	Wheeler
Savannah Sparrow	17L	1	Wilson	D'Anna et al

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Fox Sparrow	4F	3	Tifft NP	Newton
"	9	1	Wilson (f)	D'Anna, Potter
"	24	11	Tonawanda	Watson
Lincoln's Sparrow	1, 4	3, 1	Tifft NP	Newton
Lapland Longspur	24	1	Shelby	Morien
Snow Bunting	28F; 31	20; 103	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell; Fox
"	29	11	Wilson Harbor	Sharon
"	29	12	Fort Niagara SP	Wheeler, Pawlicki
Scarlet Tanager	4L	2	Tifft NP	Newton
Indigo Bunting	2	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
* <u>Dickcissel</u>	22; 24	1	Porter	Gordon; Newton et al
Rusty Blackbird	9F, 17	5, 25	Iroquois NWR	Wheeler
"	14	20	Grand I.	Lazarczyk
"	24	50	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Yoerg, Henderson
Common Grackle	21	500	Grand I.	Lazarczyk
Brown-head. Cowbird	6	217	Tonawanda	Watson
Purple Finch	4	1	Newfane	D'Anna
"	9	1	Fort Niagara SP	Wheeler
"	27	2	Golden Hill SP	Watson
Pine Siskin	11F, 20	1, 6	Wilson (f)	Potter, D'Anna
"	13	1	Holland	Newton
"	17	3	Colden	J&K Landau
"	24	2	Four Mile Creek SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	30	4	Eden (f)	Andrle
"	30	1	Grand I.	Lazarczyk

Species, subspecies and named hybrids previously recorded:	271
New species, subspecies, and named hybrids recorded this month (including Thayer's Gull):	005
Total for the year 2010 (to date):	<u>276</u>

Statisticians' Note: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please advise us of any errors in the Noteworthy Records.

* Thayer's Gull	31	1	Goat I.	D'Anna, Guthrie
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Juvenal plumaged Red-shouldered Hawk photographed in Alden by Greg Coniglio on October 22nd. Interesting fact: Juvenal plumage is worn approximately 18 months for this species (Birds of North American online; bna.birds.cornell.edu; Bent, A. C. 1937. Life histories of North American birds of prey. Order Falconiformes (Part I). Bull. U.S. National Mus. 167.)

Report of the 75th Annual B.O.S. October Bird Count

Date: October 10, 2010

Compiler: Marcie Jacklin

Weather Synopsis: Terry Yonker

Weather Synopsis

Count day was a pleasant day for birding. Partly cloudy skies prevailed for most of the day. Although starting out cool, temperatures rose quickly to the 60's as a warm front passed northward through the count area at midday. Light winds turned clockwise from the southeast to the southwest by noon.

Buffalo-Niagara International Airport

Sunrise: 7:23AM EDT

Sunset: 6:42 PM EDT

TIME	WEATHER	TEMP	DEW PT	PRESSURE	DIR/WIND	REMARKS
Midnight	Fair	43°F	34°F	1018.2mb	SE3mph	
3:00 am	Partly Cloudy	40	43	1016.6	SE5	
6:00 am	Partly Cloudy	38	32	1015.5	S6	
9:00 am	Partly Cloudy	43	34	1014.5	S6	
Noon	Partly Cloudy	63	39	1012.1	SW9	Warm front passage
3:00 pm	Partly Cloudy	67	44	1009.2	SW12	
6:00 pm	Partly Cloudy	63	48	1008.4	SW10	
9:00 pm	Fog/Mist	60	58	1009.0	SW13	
Midnight	Partly Cloudy	57	54	1009.2	SW5	

Compilation: The following is a list of species recorded on the count together with the number of individuals tabulated. Boldface names indicate species for which acceptable written verifications were received. **F** represents first and **L** last dates for the fall migration, * first date for the year. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the section numbers are given in parentheses ().

GEESSE – HERONS

Cackling Goose		4	(18)	Bufflehead		22
Canada Goose		27042		Common Goldeneye		117
Mute Swan		41		Hooded Merganser		20
Tundra Swan	F	1	(18)	Common Merganser		205
Wood Duck		270		Red-breasted Merganser		42
Gadwall		43		unspecified mergansers		12 (3)
American Wigeon		449		Ruddy Duck		218
American Black Duck		99		unspecified ducks		50 (10)
Mallard		2194		Ring-necked Pheasant		14
Blue-winged Teal		21		Ruffed Grouse		26
Northern Shoveler		67		Wild Turkey		134
Northern Pintail		9		Red-throated Loon	F	2 (3,4)
Green-winged Teal		165		Common Loon		326
Teal sp.		4	(2)	Pied-billed Grebe		64
Canvasback	F	1	(17)	Horned Grebe		21 (3,4,6)
Ring-necked Duck		77		Red-necked Grebe	F	2 (3)
Greater Scaup		252	(3,7,8)	Double-crested Cormorant		1602
Lesser Scaup		21	(4,13,16)	Great Blue Heron		114
Surf Scoter		258	(3,8)	Great Egret		39 (10,11,13)
White-winged Scoter		3	(3,4)	Green Heron		2 (18,21)
Black Scoter	F	7	(3)	Black-crowned Night-Heron		2 (2,9)

VULTURES - COOTS

Turkey Vulture	553	
Osprey	5	(6,9,15)
Bald Eagle	23	
Northern Harrier	24	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	30	
Cooper's Hawk	17	
unspecified accipiters	2	(1,24)
Red-shouldered Hawk	7	

Red-tailed Hawk	228	
American Kestrel	33	
Merlin	1	(8)
Peregrine Falcon	1	(2)
Virginia Rail	L 1	(9)
Sora	L 1	(22)
Common Moorhen	1	(11)
American Coot	352	

PLOVERS - TERNS

Black-bellied Plover	35	(7,8)
American Golden-Plover	L 1	(3)
Killdeer	500	
American Avocet	2	(11)
Greater Yellowlegs	18	
Lesser Yellowlegs	43	
Solitary Sandpiper	L 1	(13)
Spotted Sandpiper	1	(6)
Sanderling	18	(7)
Semipalmated Sandpiper	L 6	(3,5,6)
Least Sandpiper	1	(5)
White-rumped Sandpiper	2	(3,23)
Pectoral Sandpiper	13	(3,5,23)

Dunlin	45	
Dowitcher species	1	(8)
Wilson's Snipe	4	(10,23)
American Woodcock	9	(19,20)
unspecified jaegers	2	(3)
Bonaparte's Gull	434	
Ring-billed Gull	10230	
Herring Gull	1389	
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1	(9)
Greater Black-backed Gull	15	
Unspecified gulls	125	(3)
Caspian Tern	L 3	(9)
Common Tern	5	(3)

PIGEONS - SWALLOWS

Rock Pigeon	2164	
Mourning Dove	1589	
Eastern Screech-Owl	8	
Great Horned Owl	25	
Barred Owl	1	(20)
Northern Saw-whet Owl	5	(15)
Chimney Swift	L 16	(9)
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	L 1	(7)
Belted Kingfisher	45	
Red-headed Woodpecker	3	(5)
Red-bellied Woodpecker	177	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	14	
Downy Woodpecker	326	
Hairy Woodpecker	102	
Northern Flicker	147	

Pileated Woodpecker	33	
Eastern Wood-Pewee	L 1	(12)
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	L 1	(18)
Eastern Phoebe	36	
Blue-headed Vireo	6	
Philadelphia Vireo	L 1	(9)
Red-eyed Vireo	L 4	
Blue Jay	1578	
American Crow	3164	
Common Raven	24	
Horned Lark	126	
Tree Swallow	2808	
N. Rough-winged Swallow	16	(1,2,12)
Barn Swallow	1	(28)

TITS - WAXWINGS

Black-capped Chickadee	1537	
Tufted Titmouse	160	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	113	
White-breasted Nuthatch	285	
Brown Creeper	22	
Carolina Wren	50	
House Wren	L 4	
Winter Wren	19	
Marsh Wren	3	(9,10,12)
Golden-crowned Kinglet	750	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	236	
Eastern Bluebird	304	

Veery	L 1	(4)
Gray-cheeked Thrush	L 1	(12)
Swainson's Thrush	13	
Hermit Thrush	121	
Wood Thrush	L 1	(14)
American Robin	2309	
Gray Catbird	39	
Northern Mockingbird	21	
Brown Thrasher	1	(11)
European Starling	26390	
American Pipit	282	
Cedar Waxwing	747	

WARBLERS

Tennessee Warbler	L	1	(18)	Lincoln's Sparrow		12
Orange-crowned Warbler		1	(12)	Swamp Sparrow		116
Nashville Warbler		3	(6,9,11)	White-throated Sparrow		1913
Chestnut-sided Warbler	L	2	(6,13)	White-crowned Sparrow		570
Black-throated Blue Warbler	L	2	(4,10)	Dark-eyed Junco		1084
Yellow-rumped Warbler		888		unspecified sparrows		1 (1)
Black-throated Green Warbler	L	1	(20)	Lapland Longspur	F	1 (3)
Pine Warbler		1	(9)	Northern Cardinal		382
Palm Warbler	L	2	(9,23)	Indigo Bunting	L	3 (3)
Bay-breasted Warbler	L	2	(8,23)	Red-winged Blackbird		5760
Blackpoll Warbler		7		Eastern Meadowlark		105
Black-and-white Warbler	L	1	(9)	Meadowlark species		1 (2)
American Redstart	L	1	(23)	Rusty Blackbird		1234
Common Yellowthroat	L	1	(20)	Common Grackle		1237
Unspecified warblers		3	(1,6)	Brown-headed Cowbird		1083
Eastern Towhee		28		Unspecified blackbirds		160 (3)
American Tree Sparrow	F	4	(9,13,14)	Purple Finch		100
Chipping Sparrow		289		House Finch		300
Field Sparrow		56		American Goldfinch		987
Savannah Sparrow		19		House Sparrow		1602
Fox Sparrow		11		unspecified birds		5 (20)
Song Sparrow		793				

Summary Information – Total Species Observed169
Total Individual Birds Observed ... 112,842

Comparisons – Associated charts, available from Marcie Jacklin, give comparative summary information for the most recent decade, for the full 75 counts and decade by decade since 1935. A chart listing totals for each species per section for the 2010 count is also available. In addition the following notes are of interest:

RECORDS:

First count record: None

Second count record: American Avocet, 2; Yellow-bellied Flycatcher;

Third count record: Cackling Goose, 4; Caspian Tern 3;

First decade record: Sora 1; American Avocet 2; Short-billed Dowitcher 1; Yellow-bellied Flycatcher;

Second decade record: Virginia Rail 1; Caspian Tern 3; Veery 1;

Third decade record: Cackling Goose 3; Tundra Swan 1; Red-throated Loon 2; White-rumped Sandpiper 2; Philadelphia Vireo 1;

INDIVIDUAL SPECIES SINCE 1935:

Highest count since 1935 (x the average): Cackling Goose, 4 (37.5x); Canada Goose, 27042 (3.7x); Mute Swan, 41 (8.2x); Surf Scoter, 258 (16.1 x); Great Egret, 39 (9.8); Turkey Vulture, 553 (5.3); American Avocet, 2 (50 x); Pileated Woodpecker, 33 (4.1 x); Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (37.5x); Tree Swallow, 2808 (17.9x); Carolina Wren, 50 (8.3x). *Total of 11.*

Lowest count since 1935 (% of the average): None.

INDIVIDUAL SPECIES SINCE 2000:

Highest count in past decade (x the average): Cackling Goose, 4 (4x); Canada Goose, 27042 (1.4x); Mute Swan, 41 (1.5x); American Black Duck, 99 (1.2x); Surf Scoter, 258 (4.3x); Common Goldeneye, 117 (7.3x); Ruffed Grouse, 26 (1.9x); Great Egret, 39 (2.4x); Turkey Vulture, 553 (1.5x); Virginia Rail, 1 (5x); Sora, 1 (10x); Black-bellied Plover, 35 (3.2x); American Avocet, 2 (10x); White-rumped Sandpiper, 2 (6.7x); Dunlin, 45 (2.5x); Short-billed Dowitcher, 1 (10x); American Woodcock, 9 (2.3x); Great Horned Owl, 25 (2.5x); Pileated Woodpecker 33, (1.6x); Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, 1 (10x); Philadelphia Vireo, 1 (3.3x); Tree Swallow, 2808 (7.5x); Carolina Wren, 50 (2.1x); Veery, 1 (5x); Hermit Thrush, 121 (2x); Chestnut-sided Warbler, 2 (3.3x); Black-and-white Warbler, 1 (1.7x); Lincoln's Sparrow, 12 (1.7x); Eastern Meadowlark, 105 (1.8x). *Total of 29.*

Lowest count in past decade (% of the average): Redhead, 0; Lesser Scaup, 21 (10.2%); White-winged Scoter, 3 (1.4%); Red-breasted Merganser, 42 (24.3%); Wild Turkey 134 (62.6%); Black-crowned Night-Heron 2, (40%); Merlin, 1 (20%); Peregrine Falcon, 1 (50%); Great Black-backed Gull, 15 (23.8%); Barred Owl, 1 (20%); Blue-headed Vireo, 6 (54.5%); Brown Creeper, 22 (51.2%); Gray-cheeked Thrush, 1 (50%); Black-throated Green Warbler, 1 (20%); Common Yellowthroat, 1 (10%); Red-winged Blackbird, 5760 (43.3%); Common Grackle, 1237 (21.7%). *Total of 17.*

SIGNIFICANT POPULATION INCREASES AND DECREASES, DECADE 1966-1975 TO DECADE 2000-2009: This report continues a change in the analysis of population change. Prior to 1966 the number of observers on these counts was fairly stable at around 150. In 1966 the Lake Erie Bird Club of Dunkirk, the Cattaraugus Bird Club, the Allegany Bird Club and the Jamestown Audubon Society began participating in the counts and the number of observers increased to approximately 250 where it has remained ever since. Given this stable number of observers it may be more revealing to compare population changes from the decade starting in 1966 to the current decade, rather than the entire count period to the current decade, as I have done in the past. And to make this comparison more scientifically meaningful t-testing has been used to compare the birds observed in the two ten year periods in order to determine if there has been a statistically significant change in the population of each recorded species. Those species whose population totals are statistically significantly different at the 95% confidence level are listed below.

INCREASES: *The numbers shown indicate the multiple by which the decade averages have increased except when no sightings occurred in the first decade, in which case the numbers in parenthesis indicate the total number observed in each of the two decades:*

Canada Goose, 3x; Mute Swan, (281/0); Gadwall, 4.1x; Mallard, 2.3x; Northern Shoveler, 28.5x; Ring-necked Duck, 8.9x; Hooded Merganser, 4.4x; Common Merganser, 10.9x; Red-breasted Merganser 7.3x; Ruddy Duck, 16.9; Wild Turkey 5.8x; Common Loon, 29.8x; Double-crested Cormorant, 2539.4x; Great Egret, (162/0); Turkey Vulture, 12.5x; Bald Eagle, 51.3; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 3.1x; Cooper's Hawk, 2.7x; Red-tailed Hawk, 1.5x; Merlin, 22.5x; Peregrine Falcon, 22x; Ring-billed Gull, 1.9x; Lesser Black-backed Gull, (14/0); Rock Pigeon, 2.1x; Mourning Dove 5.8x; Eastern Screech Owl, 1.8x; Barred Owl, 2.4x; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 29.2x; Pileated Woodpecker, 3x; American Crow, 1.5x; Common Raven, (220/0); Tufted Titmouse, 13.3x; Red-breasted Nuthatch 1.8x; Carolina Wren, 5.1x; Eastern Bluebird, 2x; Northern Mockingbird, 3.1x; Northern Cardinal, 1.4x; House Finch, 250.5; *Total = 38 species; Observers, 1.2x.*

DECREASES: *The numbers shown indicate the percentage to which the averages have decreased to except when no sightings occurred in the last decade, in which case the numbers in parenthesis indicate the total number observed in each of the two decades:*

American Wigeon, 29%; American Black Duck, 21%; Ring-necked Pheasant, 11%; Ruffed Grouse, 30%; American Bittern, (22/0); Red-shouldered Hawk, 61%; Broad-winged Hawk, 25%; American Kestrel, 58%; Common Moorhen, 9%; Sanderling, 34%; Dunlin, 24%; Wilson's Snipe, 31%; American Woodcock, 18%; Common Nighthawk, (14/0); Belted Kingfisher, 54%; Red-headed Woodpecker, 10%; Northern Flicker, 63%; House Wren, 43%; Swainson's Thrush, 27%; Wood Thrush, 41%; American Robin, 50%; Brown Thrasher, 19%; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 10%; Magnolia Warbler, 9%; Cape May Warbler, 9%; Blackburnian Warbler, 9%; Palm Warbler, 40%; Bay-breasted Warbler, 12%; Black-and-white Warbler, 18%; American Redstart, 24%; Northern Waterthrush, (9/0); Wilson's Warbler, 2%; Eastern Towhee, 26%; ; Field Sparrow, 33%; Vesper Sparrow, 2%; Savannah Sparrow, 29%; Song Sparrow, 42%; Dark-eyed Junco, 45%; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 13%; Red-winged Blackbird, 56%; Eastern Meadowlark, 11%; American Goldfinch, 52%; House Sparrow, 39%. *Total = 43 species*

Sections and Observers: Names of section compilers are in boldface.

1. Fonthill, ON: David Cooper, Art Hannah, **Lynne Landon**, Deborah Laughton, Terry Yonker
2. Thorold, ON: Brian Ahara, **John Black**, Paula Clark, Jean Hampson, Bob Highcock, Kayo Roy, Maggie Smilie, John Stevens
3. Wilson, NY: **Willie D'Anna**, Betsy Potter, Vicki Rothman
4. Middleport, NY: Neal Gordon, Jim Pawlicki, Mark Schlacter, Holly Sweeny, **Bill Watson**, David Wheeler
5. Oak Orchard, NY: Sally Castren, Morgan Jones, Celeste Morien, Susan O'Donnell, **Thomas O'Donnell**, Joyce Vanna
6. Port Maitland, ON: **Jerry Chapple**, Nina Chapple, George Thomas, Maggie Thomas
7. Lowbanks, ON: **Mike Hamilton**, Jim Rozanski, Liz Wells, Margaret Wooster
8. Fort Erie, ON: Peter BonEnfant, Doug Happ, Marcie Jacklin, **Mike Zebehazy**
9. Grand Island, NY: Lewis Crowell, Michael Galas, Sylvia Galas, Ron Hacker, Sue Hacker, Christopher Hollister, Bernie Kester, Jerry Lazarczyk, Karen Lewis, Scott Meier, Debbie Milleville, Susan O'Donnell, Tom O'Donnell, **Gerry Rising**
10. Akron, NY: Ed Crohn, Donna DeLeon, Robert DeLeon, **David Gordon**, Celeste Morien, Don Roberson, Mary Ann Stegmeier, John Welte, Martha Welte

11. Buffalo, NY: **Chuck Rosenburg**, Peter Yoerg
12. Lancaster, NY: Chris Betrus, Greg Coniglio, Kurt Fox, Linda Holmes, **Mike Morgante**, Nathaniel Young
13. Batavia, NY: **Douglas Beattie**, Sharon Beattie, Carol Britton, Elaine Dart, Kurt Fox, Tad Gerace, Jack Hartwig, Jodi Laird, Marc Mason, Max Mason, Jim Ochterski, Brian Poch, Suzie Salo, Jane Schneider, Paula Stone, Dana Stringham, Diane Stringham, Don Thureau, Ginny Tiede, John Volpe, Mary Volpe
14. Hamburg, NY: Bob Andrie, Ken Brandes, Joanne Dobler, **Fred Harrington**, Glena Leous, Mark Leous, Patty Madigan, Sue Saunders, Nancy Vigyikan, Carolyn Willington
15. Java, NY: **William Bogacki**, David Junkin, Ed Ratajczak, Sally Uzunov
16. Angola, NY: Patricia Andrie, Robert Andrie, Tom Connare, Audrey Horbett, **Frances Rew**
17. Cattaraugus, NY: **Joe Mitchell**
18. Delavan, NY: **Bruce Chilton**, Dave Feliciano, Jim Landau, Karen Landau, Grace Vetter, Jim Wojewodzki
19. Fillmore, NY: Allegany County Bird Club: Ron Anderson, Betty Bledsoe, James Fegley, John Hasper, Dan Merritt, Meg Merritt, Virginia Norton, Michael Raybuck, Teresa Rork, Carol Stonemetz, Ann Voss, Jean Wilson, **Larry Wilson**
20. Dunkirk, NY: Lake Erie Bird Club: Sue Besemer, Chris Budniewski, Ray Budniewski, Janet Centner, Dick Clarke, Sylvia Clarke, Paul Farver, Joanne Goetz, Thomas Goetz, Joe Gula, Carol Hardenberg, Nancy Karp, Terry Mosher, Bob Peterson, Beverly Ruska, John Ruska, Audrey Schafer, **Jeanine Smith**, Ted Taft, Page Woodbury
21. Cherry Creek, NY: Jamestown Audubon Society: Dan Cordosi, Margaret Jewett, William Seleen, Tom Simmons, **Bob Sundell**
22. Sherman, NY: Jamestown Audubon Society: Jim Berry, Mary Berry, Seth Berry, Margaret Jewett, William Seleen, **Bob Sundell**
23. Frewsburg, NY: Jamestown Audubon Society: Jim Berry, Mary Berry, Seth Berry, Dan Cordosi, Margaret Jewett, Ruth Lundin, Steve Maggio, Linda O'Brien, Bill Seleen, Tom Simmons, **Bob Sundell**
24. Salamanca, NY and Allegany State Park: Cattaraugus County Bird Club: **Tim Baird**, Mike DeSha
25. Allegany, NY: Cattaraugus County Bird Club: **Tim Baird**, Joyce Ermer, Mike Ermer, Jeff Reed
26. Cuba, NY: Allegany County Bird Club: **Denton Willett**
27. Bolivar, NY: Allegany County Bird Club: **Russel Allen**, Ken Burdick, **Diane** Converso, Jerry Lazarczyk, Everly Ramsey, Nicole Ramsey, Wilma Sanford
28. Alfred, NY: Allegany County Bird Club: **Russell Allen**, Don Brink, Betsy Brooks, Ken Burdick, Jerry Cartledge, **Diane Converso**, Paul Cully, John Gradoni, Pat Hulse, Wayne Kellogg, Barry Lash, Martha Lash, Marion McClure, Kathy McDonald, Mary Ormsby, Ralph Peterson, Ann Pipal, J. Robert Pipan, Ona Reynolds, Nancy Rouse, Jim Smith, Roger Smith, Sharon Smith, Tarah Soule, Wilma Taggart, Linda Travers, Barbara Ware, Mary Lu Wells, **Suzanne Wood**

Total Number of Observers: 213



www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org

December – February Calendar

Buffalo-Niagara Regions Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

Dec. 18: Sat. St. Bonaventure CBC. Compiler: Regina M. VanScoy (716 - 925-7109 or vanscoy716@hughes.net).

Dec. 18: Sat. Wilson-Lake Plains CBC. Compiler: Garner Light (491-4408) or garnerlight@hotmail.com).

Dec. 18: Sat. 7:30 AM. Beaver Meadow CBC. Compiler: Chuck Bartlett. (bartlett@buffaloaudubon or 716-754-7414) or call Jackie at Beaver Meadow (585-457-3228)

Dec. 19: Sun. BOS Buffalo, NY Christmas Count. Compiler: David Gordon (716-390-1429, dgordonphoto@yahoo.com).

Dec. 19: Sun. St. Catharines CBC. Compiler: Marcie Jacklin (mjacklin@brocku.ca or 905-871-2577).

Dec. 19: Sun. Jamestown CBC. Compiler: Bill Seleen (wseleen@stny.rr.com or 716-664-4204).

Dec. 27: Mon. Niagara Falls ON-NY CBC. Contact Willie D'Anna (751-3637 or dannapotter@roadrunner.com) to work on the NY side. Contact Kayo Roy (905-892-4433 or kayoroy@niagara.com) to work on the Canadian side. All payments and data go to the compiler, Kayo Roy, 13 Kinsman Court, Fonthill, Ontario, Canada L0S 1E3

Dec. 28: Tues. Oak Orchard Count. Compiler: Celeste Morien (tcmorien@gmail.com) 585-721-8202

Jan 2: Sun. Port Colborne CBC. Meet at McDonald's restaurant in Port Colborne at the corner of Highway 3 and Highway 58 at 8 AM. Compiler: Drew Campbell (drew.campbell@gm.com, drewcampbell@roadrunner.com, home phone- 716-668-0759, Cell Phone- 586-441-8796)

Jan. 2: Sun. Hamburg - East Aurora CBC. Compiler: Tom O'Donnell (284-5569 or tmodonnell@roadrunner.com)

Jan. 2, Sun. Dunkirk-Fredonia CBC. Compiler: Joanne Goetz, goetz@netsync.net or 716-673-1627 and Jeanine Smith, jesmith@netsync.net or 716-672-2235.

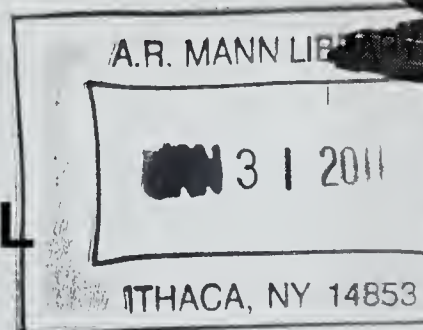
Jan. 12: BOS Annual Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Science Museum. Holly Sweeny will discuss the April Count.

Jan. 16: Sunday. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation January Waterfowl Count and mid-winter Bald Eagle Survey. The count period is from Jan. 15-23. However, counters are urged to use the target date of Sunday, Jan. 16, weather permitting. New members are encouraged to participate! Contact the Compiler for info: Jim Landau at 941-3869 or kjlandau@localnet.com

Feb. 9: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Science Museum. John Volpe will discuss "Native American Interpretations Of Birds."

The Prothonotary

BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Volume 76, No. 12 December 2010

THE MONTH: November

Gerry Rising

Weather for November 2010 in the words of Steve Mclaughlin of the Buffalo Weather Forecast Office: quiet and tranquil. It continued the series of nine months with above average temperatures with its 41.5°F, 1.2° above normal. (The month began colder than usual but the latter half raised that average.) Two records ended this month: the 214 day growing season, longest in bureau history, on November 1 with a freeze; and the 271 days without snow on the 26th, the longest such period since 1946, in fact 70 days longer than average. That snow was also 18 days later than the yearly average.

The precipitation total of 3.55 inches was about .4 inches below average. Of that the snowfall total of 1.6 inches (all on the 26th) was quite a bit below the average for November of 11 inches (to say nothing of the 2000 record of 45.6 inches!)

A bland month like this ought to produce a rather bland listing of birds, but there were, as always, enough exceptions to reward those who continued to spend many hours in the field or observing at feeders.

Here are my brief notes on the reports:

Waterfowl: All the usual suspects checked in as well as a group of White-fronted Geese and a single Eared Grebe.

Raptors: Scattered reports of Rough-legged Hawks through the month beginning on the 5th.

Shorebirds: A Black-bellied Plover together with some Dunlins on the 21st.

Gulls and allies: A maximum Bonaparte's Gull count on the 27th of 30,000. A few Little Gulls and both Iceland and Glaucous Gulls reported. Best birds: Black-legged Kittiwake on the 25th, California Gull on the 7th and then again on the 26th and 28th, and Parasitic Jaeger on the 2nd.

Passerines: Single Northern Shrikes on three

dates, the first on

the 3rd. A lone

Cave Swallow at

Morgan's Point on

the 24th. Late

Marsh Wrens at

113 The Month

Gerry Rising

114 Noteworthy Records

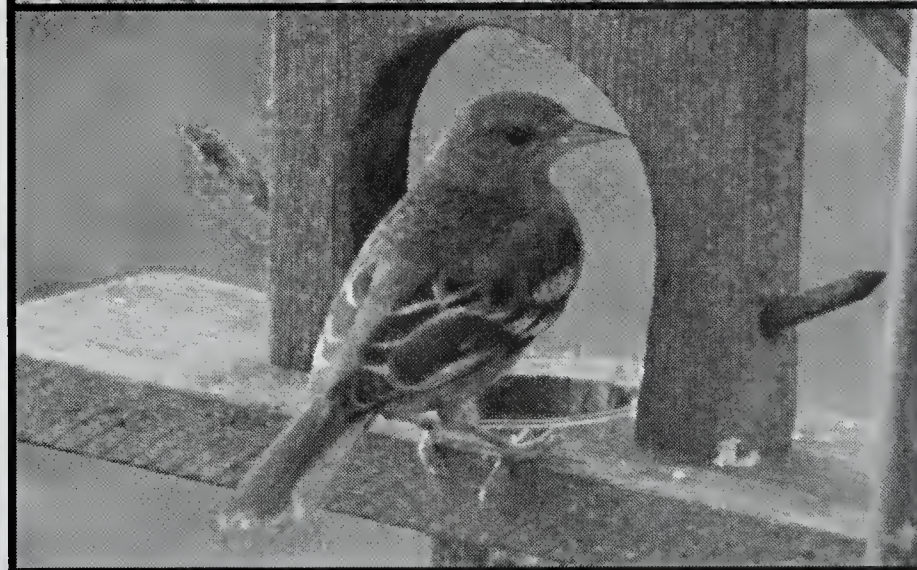
Bruce Chilton & Statisticians

118 Calendar

Iroquois on the 9th and 13th. Reports of 1800 and 300 Rusty Blackbirds a welcome counter to the threatened status of this species.

Yard and Feeder visitors: A Prairie Warbler on the 20th. A Lark Sparrow for a week late in the month. A Baltimore Oriole through the month. A White-winged Crossbill and a Common Redpoll on the 29th. Evening Grosbeaks making a welcome appearance: five on the 8th and 9th and a single bird on the 25th. Pine Siskins through the month with a maximum of 60.

A bland weather month perhaps, but, with five species added to the year list this late, I am impressed.



(Top) Lark Sparrow and (Bottom) Baltimore Oriole photographed by Willie D'Anna and Lynette Rivers in Wilson (Nov. 17-24) and Hamburg (Nov. 7-30), respectively.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (8th Edition - Revised 2009) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for the species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

* = First record for the year.

F - First record for the migration.

L - Last record for the migration.

(f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of nestling or fledgling.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PV - Indicates Previously Documented

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Ave., Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com

<u>Species</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Gr. White-fr. Goose	7F - 13	8 - 9	Iroquois NWR	Newton, Morien et al
Snow Goose	7	2 blue	Alabama	Newton
"	9; 10	3 blue	Iroquois NWR	Morien; Watson, Morien
"	19	1	Olcott	Mitchell
Brant	7	1	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna
"	14	1	Yates	D'Anna
Cackling Goose	7	7	Alabama	Newton
"	10; 13; 18	7; 10; 18	Iroquois NWR	Morien; D'Anna; Watson
"	25	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Jacklin, Seburn
"	28	3	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Mute Swan	28	1	Jamestown	Berry
Tundra Swan	6; 27	40; 25	Fort Erie (Ont)	Jacklin; Yoerg et al
"	10	25	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	16, 26	54, 165	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	28	250	Port Colborne (Ont)	B&J Farnan
"	28	110	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
Wood Duck	7	9	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
"	9	2	Tifft NP	Newton
Gadwall	6	50	Fort Erie (Ont)	Jacklin
"	6	30	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	8; 23	48; 20	Tifft NP	Watson; Newton
American Black Duck	6; 28	22; 45	Batavia WWTP	Watson; C&T Morien
Blue-winged Teal	9L	1	Tifft NP	Newton
Northern Shoveler	6; 28	109; 20	Batavia WWTP	Fox; C&T Morien
"	9, 13	4, 9	Iroquois NWR	C&G Morien, C Morien
"	29	1	Tifft NP	Watson
Northern Pintail	6	87	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Green-winged Teal	3, 7	14, 36	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
"	8; 9	10; 12	Tifft NP	Watson; Newton
Canvasback	1; 6	6; 3	Batavia WWTP	Ragan; Fox
Ring-necked Duck	6, 13	102, 145	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Greater Scaup	14	135	Yates	D'Anna
"	28	4	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Lesser Scaup	5	14	Niagara Falls	Watson
"	6	60	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Surf Scoter	6	1	Batavia WWTP	Morien, Light
"	7	2	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna
White-winged Scoter	2	15	Youngstown	Newton
"	6	3	Batavia WWTP	Morien, Light
"	21	12	Fort Niagara SP	Watson, Spahn (BOS)
Black Scoter	6; 13	2; 1	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Morien; Fox
"	17, 27	1	Hamburg Town Pk	Yoerg, Henderson
Long-tailed Duck	6; 28	1; 1	Batavia WWTP	Morien, Light; Fox
"	17, 27	40, 50	Hamburg Town Pk	Yoerg, Henderson
"	24	31	Golden Hill SP	Watson
Bufflehead	27	35	Chautauqua Lake	Berry

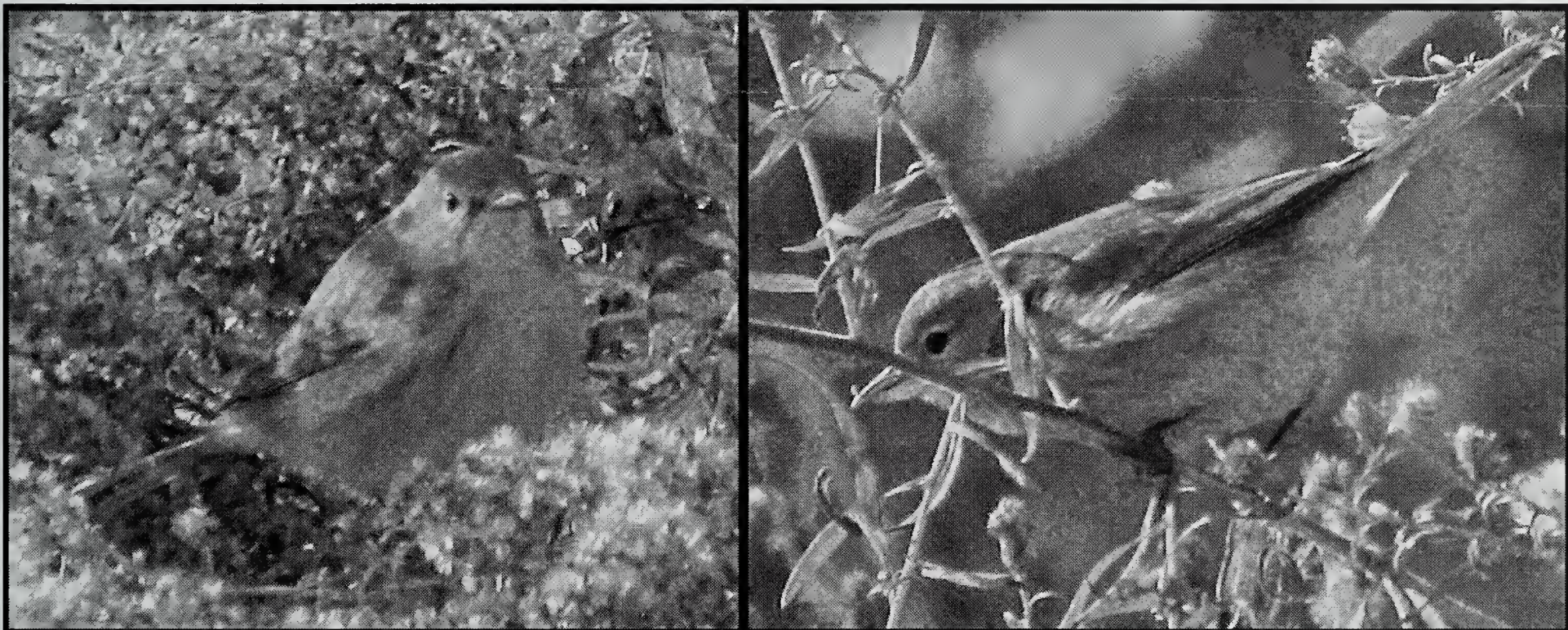
<u>Species</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Common Goldeneye	5	279	Niagara Falls	Watson
Hooded Merganser	10; 20	120; 125	Iroquois NWR	Watson; Morien
"	28	125	Alleg SP & Alleg Resvr	Baird
Red-br. Merganser	6, 19	1, 2	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Ruddy Duck	6, 28	1371; 687	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	8	3	Tifft NP	Watson
"	28	30	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
Red-throated Loon	24	16	Golden Hill SP	Watson
Common Loon	17, 27	5, 2	Hamburg Town Pk	Yoerg, Henderson
"	20	1	Harmony	Berry
"	24	9	Golden Hill SP	Watson
"	27	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Jacklin, BonEnfant
Red-necked Grebe	2; 11	1; 1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Newton; D'Anna et al
"	14	7	Wilson to Shadigee	D'Anna
Eared Grebe	6	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Fox
D.-crested Cormorant	10	3	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Turkey Vulture	11L	1	Grand Island	Steuer
Osprey	4L	1	Depew	Petherick
Bald Eagle	7	1 ad + 2 juv	Allegany SP	Baird
"	28	4 ad + 7 juv	Alleg SP & Alleg Resvr	Baird
"	28	1	Jamestown	Berry
Northern Harrier	1	1	East Shelby	Morien
"	3	1	Bethany	Dart
"	20, 23	2	East Shelby	Morien
"	20, 27	2, 1	Harmony	Berry
Red-shouldered Hawk	21	2	Busti	Berry
Rough-legged Hawk	5	1 light	Java	D&S Junkin
"	11	1 light	Thorold (Ont)	Jacklin
"	13, 20	1 light, 1 dk	East Shelby	C Morien
"	14	1	Yates	D'Anna
"	14	1	Olcott	D'Anna
"	14; 20	1 light; 2	Harmony	Berry
"	24	1	Oakfield	Morien
"	28	2	Busti	Berry
Merlin	2	1	Porter	Newton
"	6	1	Batavia WWTP	Morien, Light
Peregrine Falcon	29	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Mitchell
American Coot	10	120	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	28	300+	Port Colborne (Ont)	B&J Farnan
Black-bellied Plover	21L	1	Long Beach CA (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Killdeer	28	6	Jamestown	Berry
Greater Yellowlegs	6L	2	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Dunlin	21	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	21	5	Long Beach CA (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
* Black-leg. Kittiwake	25F	1 imm	Niagara Falls	D'Anna, Potter
Bonaparte's Gull	6	2 imm	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	26	8825	Niag-on-the-Lake (Ont)	B&B DiLabio
"	27	30000	Fort Erie (Ont)	Jacklin, Tozer et al
"	29	1 leucistic	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Mitchell
Little Gull	7	1 1 st winter	Fort Erie (Ont)	Jacklin, Seburn
"	26	1	Niag-on-the-Lake (Ont)	B&B DiLabio
"	27	2	Whirlpool PP (Ont)	D'Anna, Potter et al
"	27	2	Fort Erie (Ont)	Jacklin et al
Ring-billed Gull	7	625	Bethany	Beattie
<u>California Gull</u>	5	1	Goat I.	Watson
"	26, 28	1	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	D'Anna et al
Iceland Gull	11, 25	1, 6	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	D'Anna et al
Lesser Black-b. Gull	2; 5, 10	4; 1, 3	Goat I.	Newton; Watson
"	21	11	Niagara Falls	Wilson, D'Anna et al
"	24	1	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	D'Anna, Potter et al
Glaucous Gull	21F	1	Niagara Falls	Wilson, D'Anna et al
"	25	3	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	D'Anna, Tozer et al
Parasitic Jaeger	2L	1	Porter	Newton

<u>Species</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Eastern Screech-Owl	28	1 rufous	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Potter (OFO)
Short-eared Owl	22, 25	3, 2	East Shelby	Morien
Nor. Saw-whet Owl	1 - 12	16 total	Wethersfield	D&S Junkin
Red-headed Wdpkr.	9	1	Alabama	C&G Morien
Northern Shrike	3	1	Wethersfield	D&S Junkin
"	13	1	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna, Morien
"	25	1	Somerset	D'Anna
Common Raven	3	2	Ellicottville	Baird
"	5, 21	2, 1	Alfred	Brooks
"	7, 28	1, 3	Allegany SP	Baird
Horned Lark	1, 23	20, 20	East Shelby	Morien
"	27	12	Harmony	Berry
Tree Swallow	6L	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
* <u>Cave Swallow</u>	24	1	Morgan's Point (Ont)	B&J Farnan
Carolina Wren	9	2	Tift NP	Newton
"	24	1	Grand I. (f)	Lazarczyk
"	25	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	27, 28	1	Orchard Park	Morgante
Winter Wren	6	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	8; 9	1	Tift NP	Watson; Newton
Marsh Wren	9; <u>13L</u>	3; 1	Iroquois NWR	Morien; Morien, D'Anna
Hermit Thrush	25	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
Gray Catbird	8; 9	1	Tift NP	Watson; Newton
Northern Mockingbird	2	2	Youngstown	Newton
"	6; 23	2; 1	Batavia WWTP	Morien, Light; Mitchell
"	10	2	East Shelby	T Morien
"	26	1	Bethany	Beattie
Brown Thrasher	9	1	Tift NP	Newton
American Pipit	9	3	Tift NP	Newton
"	12	1	Darien Lakes SP	Mitchell
"	13, 20	3, 1	Iroquois NWR	C Morien
"	16	1	Holland	Newton
Yellow-rump. Warbler	6	24	Fort Erie (Ont)	Jacklin
"	13	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Prairie Warbler	<u>20</u>	1	Wilson	D'Anna et al
* <u>Lark Sparrow</u>	17 - 24	1	Wilson (f)	Potter, D'Anna, Watson
Fox Sparrow	1	2	Alfred	Brooks
"	3	10	Tonawanda	Watson
"	5	3	Lancaster (f)	Morgante
"	9	1	Tift NP	Newton
"	9	2	Iroquois NWR	C&G Morien
"	19	1	Colden	J&K Landau
White-cr. Sparrow	1	2	Alfred	Brooks
"	2	3	Youngstown	Newton
"	30	1	Bethany	Beattie
Lapland Longspur	1, 23	20, 1	East Shelby	Morien
Snow Bunting	2	2	Wilson	Newton
"	6; 10	40; 67	Batavia WWTP	Watson et al; Mitchell
"	8	75	Fort Erie (Ont)	B&J Farnan
"	23	300	East Shelby	Morien
"	28	250	Bethany	Dart
Red-winged Blackbird	6	3900	Alexander	Fox
Rusty Blackbird	3	2	Tonawanda	Watson
"	6	<u>1800</u>	Alexander	Fox
"	9; 13	4; 100	Iroquois NWR	C&G Morien; D'Anna
"	13	300	East Shelby	Morien
Common Grackle	3	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	6	300	Alexander	Fox
Baltimore Oriole	<u>7-30</u>	1	Hamburg (f)	Rivers
Purple Finch	1	1 leucistic	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	7	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	D'Anna
"	7	4	Allegany SP	Baird
* White-w. Crossbill	29F	1	Wilson (f)	Potter

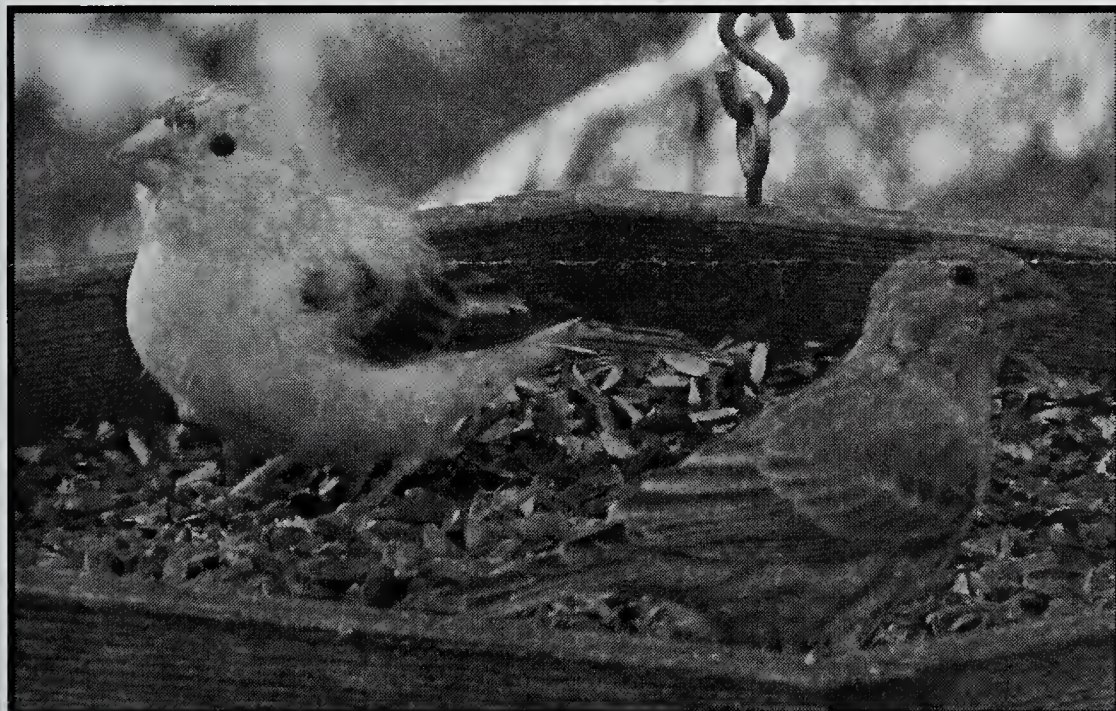
<u>Species</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Common Redpoll	25F	1	Wilson (f)	Potter
Pine Siskin	1	16	Colden	J&K Landau
"	1	1	Wethersfield	D&S Junkin
"	4	2	Almond	Brooks
"	6	4	Bethany	Beattie
"	7-21, 27	1, 4	Williamsville	Salembier
"	10	1	Morgan's Point (Ont)	B&J Farnan
"	17 - 30	40 - 60	Wilson (f)	Potter, D'Anna
"	30	3	East Shelby (f)	C Morien
* Evening Grosbeak	8F, 9, 25	5, 5, 1	Wilson (f)	Potter

Species, subspecies and named hybrids previously recorded: 276
New species, subspecies, and named hybrids recorded this month: 005
Total for the year 2010 (to date): **281**

Statisticians' Note: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please advise us of any errors in the Noteworthy Records.



(Left & Right) Prairie Warbler photographed by Willie D'Anna in Wilson on November 20th.



(Left & Right) Leucistic Purple Finch photographed by Betsy Potter in Wilson on November 1st.



www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org

February – April Calendar

Buffalo-Niagara Regions Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

Feb. 9: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Science Museum. John Volpe will discuss "Native American Interpretations Of Birds."

Feb. 20 (Sunday): Dunkirk Harbor Field Trip. Meet at 9 AM at Dunkirk Central Avenue Pier along Route 5 in Dunkirk. From the I-90 take exit 59 for Rt.60 Dunkirk/Fredonia and turn right (north) on Route 60 for 2.5 miles to Route 5. At Route 5, turn left (west) at the light and continue for 1/3 of a mile before turning right at the next light onto the Central Avenue Pier. Leaders: Jim Pawlicki (jmpawli10@gmail.com) and Bill Watson (williamwatsonsr@aol.com or 716-909-1045).

Mar. 9: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Science Museum. Jim Berry, the President of the Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History (www.rtpi.org), will present a lecture on "Birding Field Guides: the Beginning and the End? How it came to be and what the future holds for the most basic of all birding tools." Jim will address the evolution of the field guide, their authors and where digital devices fit into field ornithology. Jim is the foremost expert on America's famous avian artist, Roger Tory Peterson.

Mar. 26: Saturday. Lake Ontario Plain Field Trip for early spring migrants. Leader: Willie D'Anna 751-3637 or dannapotter@roadrunner.com. Meet at 8 a.m. at Tops Market in Wright's Corners. This is on the east side of Route 78 at Route 104, north of Lockport.

Apr. 10: April Bird Count. Compiler Holly Sweeney at 716-639-0158 or holran171@verizon.net

Apr. 13: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Students of the Canisius College Laboratory of Avian Biology will present their avian research. The students are sponsored by Dr. Sara Morris, Professor of Biology at Canisius College. There will be three talks and one poster presentation. Catherine Alsford will present "Breeding biology of a newly-established population of House Wrens," Brynne Stumpe will present "Does House Wren singing rate change with stage in breeding cycle?", Kyle Horton will present "Flight calls in wood-warblers: Do migrants respond to conspecific calls?", and Dorothy Fatunmbi will present a biological illustration poster on "How is plumage used to determine age and sex of birds?"

Apr. 27: Vaughan Lecture at 7:00 PM at the Buffalo Science Museum. Scott Weidensaul will present 'Of a Feather: A (Brief) History of American Birding' From the moment Europeans arrived in North America, they were awestruck by a continent awash with birds - great flocks of wild pigeons, woodlands alive with brilliantly colored songbirds. Join naturalist and author Scott Weidensaul as he traces the unpredictable history of bird study in America, from frontier ornithologists (one of whom barely escaped pursuing Apaches with a precious hawk egg hidden in his mouth) to society matrons who organized the first effective conservation movement; from luminaries like Alexander Wilson (a convicted blackmailer) and Audubon (an accomplished liar) to modern geniuses like Roger Tory Peterson. Based on his latest book *Of a Feather*, this whirlwind history shows how ornithology and birding grew from eccentric hobbies into something so completely mainstream they're now (almost) cool. Scott Weidensaul is the author of more than two dozen books on natural history, including the Pulitzer Prize finalist *Living on the Wind*, about bird migration, *Return to Wild America: A Yearlong Search for the Continent's Natural Soul*, and his newest book, *Of a Feather: A Brief History of American Birding*. Weidensaul writes for such publications as *Audubon*, *Nature Conservancy* and *National Wildlife*; he lives in the mountains of eastern Pennsylvania, where he studies the migration of hawks, owls and hummingbirds.

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